

**TEAM OF THE DECADE**

**BAMA**

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

**Player of the Decade**

LB Rolando McClain  
Heads Team Of Decade

BAMAMAG.COM  
MAY 2016 \$4.95

05 >

FOX SPORTS .com

The cover features a large action shot of Alabama linebacker Rolando McClain in his red jersey with the number 25, running towards the left while being tackled by a player in a white and blue uniform. The background shows a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium.

**TEAM OF THE DECADE**

**BAMA**

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

**Player  
of the  
Decade**

**LB Rolando McClain  
Heads Team Of Decade**

BAMAMAG.COM  
MAY 2016 \$4.95

05 >  
IN BRIEF

FOX SPORTS .com

The cover features a large action shot of Alabama linebacker Rolando McClain in his red jersey with the number 25, running towards the left while being tackled by a player in a white and blue uniform. The background shows a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium.

**TEAM OF THE DECADE**

**BAMA**

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

**Player  
of the  
Decade**

**LB Rolando McClain  
Heads Team Of Decade**

BAMAMAG.COM  
MAY 2016 \$3.95

05 >  
IN BRIEF

FOX SPORTS .com

The cover features a large action shot of Alabama linebacker Rolando McClain in his red jersey with the number 25, running towards the left while being tackled by a player in a white and blue uniform. The background shows a blurred crowd of spectators at a football stadium.

**TEAM OF THE DECADE**

**BAMA**

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

**Player  
of the  
Decade**

**LB Rolando McClain  
Heads Team Of Decade**

BAMAMAG.COM  
MAY 2016 \$3.95

05 >  
IN BRIEF

FOX SPORTS .com

The cover features a large action shot of Alabama linebacker Rolando McClain in his red jersey with the number 25, running towards the left while being tackled by a player in a white and blue uniform. The background shows a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium.

**TEAM OF THE DECADE**

**BAMA**

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

**Player  
of the  
Decade**

**LB Rolando McClain  
Heads Team Of Decade**

BAMAMAG.COM  
MAY 2016 \$3.95

05 >  
IN BRIEF

FOX SPORTS .com

The cover features a large action shot of Alabama linebacker Rolando McClain in his red jersey with number 25, running towards the left while being tackled by a player in a white and blue uniform. The background shows a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium.

**TEAM OF THE DECADE**

**BAMA**

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

**Player of the Decade**

**LB Rolando McClain Heads Team Of Decade**

BAMAMAG.COM  
MAY 2016 \$4.95

05 >  
IN BRIEF

FOX SPORTS .com

The cover features a large action shot of Alabama linebacker Rolando McClain in his red jersey with the number 25, running towards the left while being tackled by a player in a white and blue uniform. The background shows a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium.

**TEAM OF THE DECADE**

**BAMA**

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

**Player  
of the  
Decade**

**LB Rolando McClain  
Heads Team Of Decade**

BAMAMAG.COM  
MAY 2016 \$4.95

05 >  
IN BRIEF

FOX SPORTS .com



# Game Changers

The **Greatest Plays** in Alabama Football History

"Outstanding combination of stories and photographs for the Crimson Tide fan!"

By 'BAMA Editor Kirk McNair • Foreword by Doug Layton

\$24.95 plus S&H and tax where applicable

Autograph by author at no additional charge

Call (205) 345-5074

## GAME CHANGERS

HEART-POUNDING  
MOMENTS  
YOU'LL  
NEVER FORGET!

THE GREATEST PLAYS  
IN **ALABAMA**  
FOOTBALL  
HISTORY

KIRK McNAIR





## Letter from the Editor

Dear Fellow Crimson Tide Fans,

Going to work for The University of Alabama Department of Athletics in 1970 proved to be a great thing. It was an exciting time to be involved as Alabama football returned to prominence with the nation's best-known coach; Crimson Tide basketball awakened under a bright, young coach; and the emphasis was on all sports to excel.

Sound familiar?

(From time-to-time people tell me I should have stayed in the athletics department, that I'd be retired now. Two things: A., I don't want to be retired. B., If Ray Perkins didn't fire me, then Bill Curry surely would have.)

As regular readers here know, I worked under one of the giants of sports information, Charley Thornton. After Alabama football had dominated the 1960s, Charley came up with the idea to have fans vote for a "Team of the Decade," and it was done. After I left Alabama to start 'BAMA Magazine in 1979, Charley suggested it would be a good idea for me to take over the "Team of the Decade" project. I knew what a task it had been for Charley in 1970, but I did it anyway.

And 'BAMA has continued to have its readers (and for the past couple of decades those who participate at BamaMag.com) choose the "Team of the Decade."

It was fun this year to have grandchildren, Roeder and Jordan, count the ballots that came in from magazine readers. Grandson Henry will be about the right age to handle the 2020 election.

I have enjoyed the project every year. I don't think there has been a year when the winning slate was exactly the one I would have chosen, but it's always very, very close.

Other schools have picked up on Charley Thornton's idea, but I'm not aware of any that have half a century of such teams.

I also wonder if any school could have had a Heisman Trophy winner and yet, legitimately, have another player selected as the Player of the Decade. That happened with Rolando McClain being the leading vote-getter. We did start the voting before the Heisman Trophy was awarded to Mark Ingram.

I have seen some twists on the idea. One magazine selected its Team of the Decade, meaning the one team during that period it considered to be the best. That would have been no contest at Alabama. The final team of the decade went 14-0 and won the national championship. Game, set, match.

Another selected the Coach of the Decade. Again, an obvious choice. Alabama Coach Nick Saban has thrust himself to the forefront of all-time college coaches, including being one of the greatest at Alabama. He's the only coach from this decade who will have a statue unveiled at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

The Team of the Decade for the 2000-09 period is heavy on players from the last couple of years, but that is not wholly because of the advantage those players have of being most familiar to voters. They were also part of the best teams because they were in many cases the best players.

My thanks, once again, to our readers for continuing to participate in the project each decade.

Sincerely,  
Kirk McNair



### 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE MAGAZINE

Editor  
KIRK MCNAIR

Recruiting Reporter  
ANDREW BONE

Feature Reporters  
CARY L. CLARK, PETER EDMUND, ANDREW VARBLE II,  
A. P. STEADHAM, MITCH DOBBS, JESSICA PARÉ,  
ROD BLACK, TIM GAYLE, KEN ROGERS, CHAD HAYNIE

Photos  
STUART MCNAIR, BENJAMIN COHEN, BARRY FIKES,  
BUTCH DILL, CAMILLE SIZEMORE,  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Assistant To Editor  
VERA DOWDLE

**scout.com**  
**Scout Publishing, LLC.**

Senior Director, Scout Publishing  
Alan McDonald

Executive Director,  
Network Development & Marketing  
Joel Cox

Director Of Scouting  
Scott Kennedy

Advertising Director  
David Stirt

Ad Traffic Manager  
Mike Dempsey

Recruiting Editor  
Dave Telep

Photography  
Getty Images

Creative Director  
Jay Torrell

Production Manager  
Shannon Coffey

Graphic Designer  
Garth French

**Subscriptions:**  
Order online at [bamamag.com](http://bamamag.com)  
(reduced online rate \$39.95)  
or call 888-979-0979.

**Customer Service:**  
Call 888-979-0979.

**To Advertise In 'Bama,  
Inside The Crimson Tide:**  
Contact Dwight Johnson at [Dwight@Scout.com](mailto:Dwight@Scout.com)  
OR Mitch Green at 1-800-239-9090.

Vol. 32, Issue 9 (ISSN 0195-0975 USPS 489-470) May, 2010

'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE magazine is published monthly, 10 times a year (August-May) by Scout Publishing, LLC 2003 Western Ave, Suite 700, Seattle, WA 98121. Basic subscription rate is \$44.95. Single copy price is \$4.95. **SUBSCRIBERS:** If the post office alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligations unless we receive a corrected address. **POSTMASTER:** Please send all change of address forms to: 'Bama, Inside the Crimson Tide 1916 Pike Place, Suite 12-250, Seattle, WA 98101-1097. Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, WA and additional mailing offices. Please allow three weeks for change of address. Reproduction or use, in whole or in part, of editorial or graphic content in any manner is strictly prohibited without the prior express written permission of Scout Publishing. All letters to 'BAMA magazine will be treated as intended for publication and are subject to 'BAMA magazine's unrestricted right to edit. Publisher is not responsible for any unsolicited art, photographs or manuscripts. 'BAMA magazine is an independent source of news and features relating to Alabama athletic programs. Scout Publishing, 'BAMA magazine and their officers, directors and stockholders are not authorized, sponsored or sanctioned by any university, athletic conference, or athletic governing body or any of their agencies. © 2010 Scout Publishing, LLC and 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE magazine. All rights reserved.





MAY 2010 • ISSUE NINE

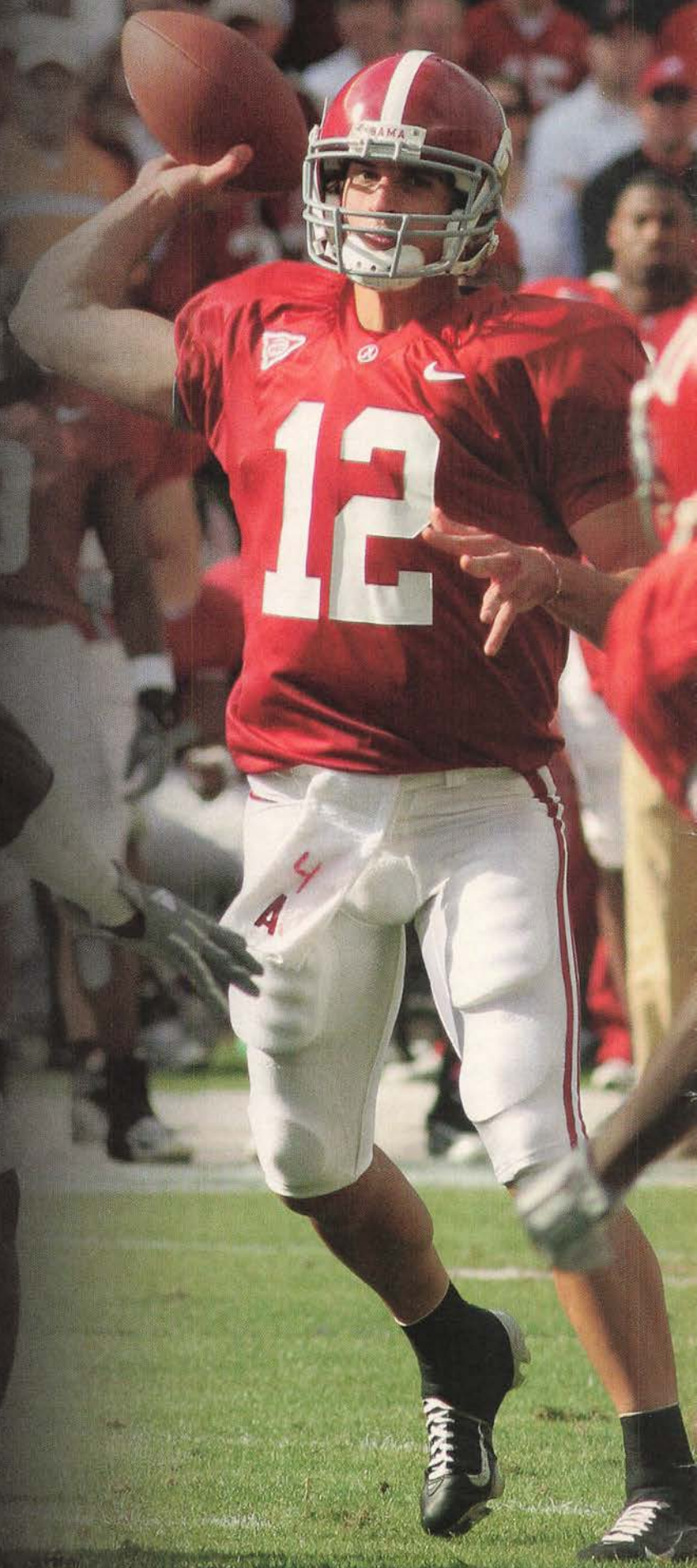
## Features

- 5 **Player of the Decade**  
Rolando McClain is the best of the best  
*by Kirk McNair*
- 9 **Team of the Decade**  
'BAMA readers have selected honor squad  
*by Kirk McNair*
- 24 **What A Back-Up**  
Trent Richardson stars behind Heisman winner  
*by Cary L. Clark*
- 28 **Adding To The Legacy**  
Football update as Tide prepares for 2010  
*by Kirk McNair*
- 30 **Prep Prospects**  
Tide listed among top prospects coast-to-coast  
*by Andrew Bone*
- 34 **On The Clock**  
Counting down to the 2010 NFL Draft  
*by Peter Schraeder*
- 39 **Basketball Search**  
Who, if any, will Grant add for men's basketball?  
*by A.P. Steadham*
- 40 **Where Are They Now?**  
Ray Odums has showcased his talents  
*by A.P. Steadham*

## Departments

- 3 **Letter From Editor**
- 8 **Team Of Decade Roster**
- 23 **Previous Teams of the Decade**
- 29 **2010 Alabama Football Schedule**
- 33 **Football Recruiting Hot List**
- 42 **'BAMA Scorecard**
- 46 **Alabama Spring Sports Schedules**

Cover photo of Rolando McClain by Stuart McNair





**FOOTBALL**  
BY KIRK McNAIR

Rolando McClain selected  
as Player of the Decade

# Player Of The Decade

Rolando McClain latest  
of great Tide linebackers





Rolando McClain helped Bama to national championship

Stuart McNair

**R**olando McClain was not a unanimous choice when Crimson Tide fans voting in *BAMA Magazine* and on *BamaMag.com* selected the 2000-09 Alabama Football Team of the Decade. For some reason, three voters did not vote for any linebackers. Every voting participant, however, who did vote in the linebacker category had McClain checked. As the leading vote-getter, he is the Alabama Player of the Decade.

"Really, I'm surprised, particularly since we had a Heisman Trophy winner in this decade," McClain said. "There have been a lot of great players at Alabama over the past ten years, so this is really an honor that I appreciate. But it's also a team award. Because we accomplished so much as a team, we have had a lot of individual honors."

McClain was one of those who received a lot of individual honors, including being first team All-America. Last season as a junior, he won both the Lambert Trophy and the Butkus Award as the nation's best linebacker. He was the Southeastern Conference Defensive Player of the Year.

McClain is not returning for his senior season, deciding to enter the NFL draft. His coach, Nick Saban, advises players to go early if they are going to be first round draft choices.

McClain, the 6-4, 260-pound middle linebacker from Decatur, said that he met with Saban before making his decision. "He got right to the point," McClain said. "He was talking to me as a coach and a father and he said I was ready to go."

Thus, McClain goes with the blessing of his coach. There are certain players who leave college early for a professional career, and the followers of that school can't help but wish him well. No one could suggest that Rolando McClain did not give Alabama all that he had, far more than the value of his scholarship. Now he has an opportunity to continue the game of football for a living.

When McClain came to Alabama three years ago, he made his goals "being a first-team All-America, winning the Butkus, and winning a national championship. I've accomplished those goals, and I think I'm going to leave The University pretty satisfied with what I've done here."

McClain gave credit to Saban, Defensive Coordinator Kirby Smart, Inside Linebackers Coach James Willis, and former Tide Defensive Coordinator and Linebackers Coach Kevin Steele, and to his teammates "for making me a better player. Without these guys I wouldn't be the man that I am."

No one was surprised. McClain has been listed as a top NFL prospect, listed by Scout.com earlier this season as the number one prospect at middle linebacker. McClain goes down in history as one of the all-time best and favorite Alabama linebackers.

McClain is the third linebacker to earn the honor since the Team of the Decade voting began with the players from the 1960s. Lee Roy Jordan was the first Player of the Decade, winning for the 1960s. Cornelius Bennett won for the decade of the '80s. Receiver Ozzie Newsome was the 1970s honoree and quarterback Jay Barker selected for the 1990s. Newsome is the all-time leader because he received the most votes for two positions, tight end and wide receiver.

McClain described his three years at Alabama as "great." He said he had been on the Dean's List the past two years and needed 35 hours to earn his degree. Saban said he had encouraged McClain to continue working on his degree "because you're always just one injury from retirement" in pro football.

Unlike a number of players preparing for the NFL draft, McClain said he would remain in school during the spring semester and work out using The University's facilities. "They got me this far," he said.

McClain said he felt he had played "okay" in Alabama's 37-21 win over Texas in the Rose Bowl for the national championship. "Texas didn't run much, so I think my primary contribution was in leadership," he said.

Saban said, "Rolando McClain has been as great an ambassador



for The University of Alabama probably as anyone ever has in terms of how he's represented himself, his family, The University, the State of Alabama, and our team. That's not only in terms of being a great football player – probably the best defensive football player in the country, in my opinion, or one of them, and certainly at his position – but he always did things right. He's done a great job academically. His leadership had as much impact on our team and our team's success since he's been here in the last three years – even in his freshman year – as anyone that I've ever been associated with. And we appreciate that."

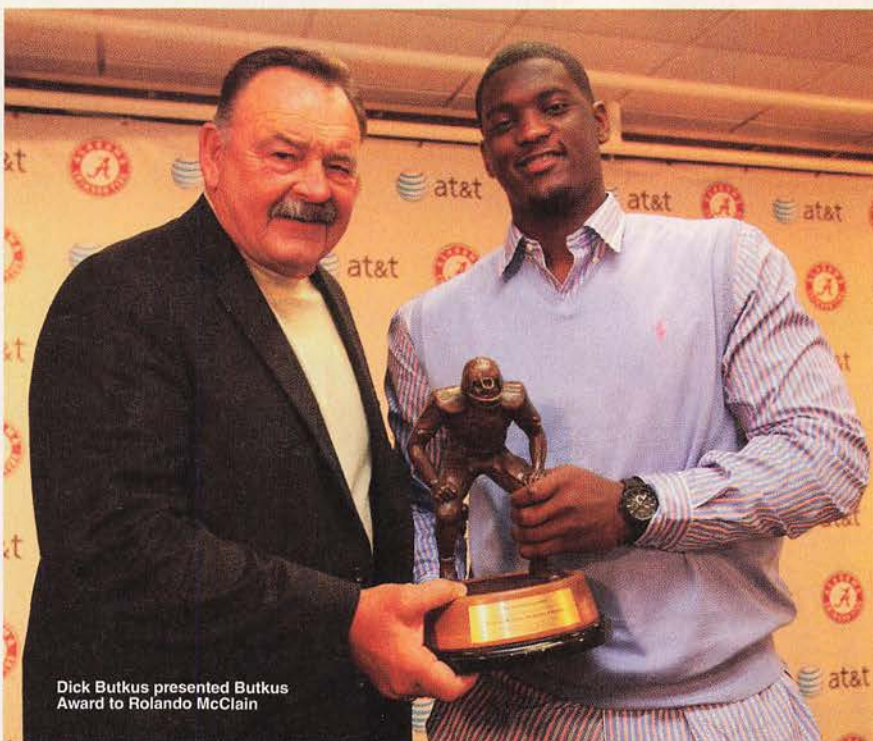
All-time football great Dick Butkus made a surprise visit to Tuscaloosa to present McClain with the Butkus Award. Butkus said, "His play really speaks for itself. It's not only his playing ability, which is quite obvious, but it also entails people in his situation, people look up to him. You should never flinch in the old American tradition of giving back and he has a wonderful opportunity to help other people and I think the selection committee did a great job. This is the right guy."

Ordinarily, there are not many surprises at a Pro Day event. That's the day that scouts and coaches from National Football League teams land on a college campus for the purpose of putting potential professional players through a battery of tests. As Alabama has improved from a mediocre team to the national champion, the level of interest in the event has increased.

That's why all 32 NFL teams had coaches and scouts in attendance at Alabama in early March to measure and weigh, and then watch about a dozen and a half recent members of the Crimson Tide do the runs and jumps and presses and other football-related drills in the continuing process of finding pro talent.

As often as not, the hard news is limited. All the players said they thought they did well and improved themselves. The occasional scout or coach—Carolina Head Coach John Fox was among those on hand in Alabama's Hank Crisp Indoor Facility Wednesday—made available for comment will say that several of the players were impressive.

But there was news when McClain, the top player in the workouts, said that he had been battling Crohn's disease since his freshman year in high school. Crohn's disease is an ongoing disorder of the digestive tract, considered to be without cure, though treatable with drugs and diet. Obviously, McClain has been able to cope. ■



Dick Butkus presented Butkus Award to Rolando McClain

University of Alabama

"His play really speaks for itself. It's not only his playing ability, which is quite obvious, but it also entails people in his situation, people look up to him." – Dick Butkus



*"Home of the Original Elephantwear"*

Congratulations to the  
University of Alabama  
Football Team

**2009  
National  
Champions!**

Buy your  
commemorative  
cap today!



**the Locker Room**



**Crimson Brushed Fleece  
1/4 zip & pullover  
(Mens and Ladies)**



**Brushed Fleece Ladies Vest  
Mens Sizes S-XXL Ladies XS-XL**



**2009 NATIONAL  
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS**

**www.locker-room.biz**  
**1218 University Blvd • 752-2990**



<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>Hometown</i>
<b>OFFENSE</b>			
WR	Julio Jones	(2008-09)	Foley
WR	Tyrone Prothro	(2003-05)	Heflin
OL	Mike Johnson	(2006-09)	Pensacola, Fla.
OL	Andre Smith	(2006-08)	Birmingham
OL	Wesley Britt	(2001-04)	Cullman
OL	Justin Smiley	(2001-03)	Ellabell, Ga.
C	Antoine Caldwell	(2005-08)	Montgomery
QB	Brodie Croyle	(2002-05)	Rainbow City
RB	Mark Ingram	(2008-09)	Flint, Mich.
RB	Glen Coffee	(2005-08)	Fort Walton Beach, Fla.
TE	Terry Jones, Jr.	(1998-2001)	Tuscaloosa

## **DEFENSE**

DL	Terrence Cody	(2008-09)	Fort Myers, Fla.
DL	Jarret Johnson	(1999-2002)	Chiefland, Fla.
DL	Antwan Odom	(2000-03)	Bayou LaBatre
LB	Rolando McClain	(2007-09)	Decatur
LB	DeMeco Ryans	(2002-05)	Bessemer
LB	Saleem Rasheed	(1999-2001)	Birmingham
LB	Freddie Roach	(2002-05)	Killen
DB	Javier Arenas	(2006-09)	Tampa, Fla.
DB	Rashad Johnson	(2005-08)	Sulligent
DB	Roman Harper	(2002-05)	Prattville
DB	Charlie Peprah	(2002-05)	Plano, Texas

## **SPECIALISTS**

PK	Leigh Tiffin	(2006-09)	Muscle Shoals
P	Lane Bearden	(1999-2002)	Pelham

## **PLAYER OF THE DECADE**

LB	Rolando McClain	(2007-09)	Decatur
----	-----------------	-----------	---------



# Team Of The Decade

'BAMA readers have selected honor squad

**R**olando McClain made the observation. "There have been a lot of great players at Alabama over the past ten years," he said. It was the task of the readers of **'BAMA Magazine** and **BamaMag.com** to sort out the best at each of 24 positions in choosing the Team of the Decade.

The selection of the honor squad by Crimson Tide fans has been going on since the decade of the 1960s, a ten-year period that included three national championship teams. The practice continued under the auspices of **'BAMA** beginning with the decade of the 1970s. Again there were three national championship teams in the decade. There were no national champions, but some of Alabama's finest players, in the 1980s. The 1990s produced one national championship team, as did the latest decade.

National championships are won with a lot of great football players, and it was no shock that the 2009 Alabama team contributed seven members of the Team of the Decade. Heisman Trophy winner Mark Ingram, Butkus Award winner Rolando McClain, and fellow All-America players Mike Johnson, Terrence Cody, Javier Arenas, and Leigh Tiffin were selected. The seventh member of the Team of the Decade from 2009 is Julio Jones.

There were also seven from the 2006 team. But there were eight from the 2007 team, nine who played on the 2008 team, and 10 who were on the 2002 squad.

Although Nick Saban was Alabama head coach only three of the seasons of the decade, he coached 11 of the 24 players who were selected.

There were some close "races" in the election, but none that were not decisive.

It is interesting that a Heisman Trophy winner was not the number one vote-getter, but the balloting started prior to Ingram winning that award. He did poll over 90 per cent of the votes for running back. Four others—McClain, Arenas, Tiffin, and offensive lineman Andre Smith—received more votes at their positions than Ingram did. Although it is hard to imagine anyone not voting for Smith—the 2008 Outland Award winner as the nation's best lineman—



Nick Saban

Stuart McNair

the explanation is almost certainly the manner in which Smith left the team, suspended just before the Sugar Bowl for a violation of team rules, perhaps improper dealings with an agent.

Records didn't seem to mean much to the voters. John Parker Wilson holds most Alabama passing records, but he was third in the voting at quarterback, behind Brodie Croyle and Greg McElroy. D.J. Hall, who set Alabama pass receiving records, finished behind Tyrone Prothro and Julio Jones.

The Johnsons more than kept up with the Joneses. Two former Jones boys—wide receiver Julio and tight end Terry—were on the team. But three Johnsons made it—offensive lineman Mike, defensive lineman Jarret, and defensive back Rashad.

Although four members of the 2000-09 team also played in the 1990s, none were on the previous decade honor squad. They are Terry Jones (1998-2001), Jarret Johnson (1999-2002), linebacker Salmee Rasheed (1999-2001), and punter Lane Bearden (1999-2002).

Deciding the number of possibilities at some positions is cause for mild debate. In the 1970s it was easy, because Alabama was in the wishbone offense nine years and a 5-2 defense all ten years. We went with two running backs and two wide receivers, even though that was not always the line-up in the last decade, and certainly not in the past three years. Defensively, we used the 3-4, whereas some might have preferred the opportunity to vote for four defensive linemen and only three linebackers.

Just to clear up the question that is raised each time a Team of the Decade is named regarding when the decade should start and end: Yes, the first year was "1" and so it is legitimate to say that the decade is not yet over, that it should have been 2001 through 2010. One problem is that when the idea first surfaced in the fertile brain of former Alabama Sports Information Director Charley Thornton, he used the more convenient number of "6" as in '60s, so the first team was 1960-69 and it has continued thus. Fortunately, my dictionary includes the definition of a decade as "a ten-year period."

*On the following pages, the members of the Alabama Team of the Decade:*



**RUNNING BACKS**

**Mark Ingram (2008-09)**

*Flint, Mich.*

Although Mark Ingram started just the 2009 season in the decade, not much more could be asked of a running back. He was the Heisman Trophy winner. He was the Most Valuable Offensive Player in the National Championship Game. He is Alabama's all-time single season rushing leader as he rushed for 1,658 yards with 20 touchdowns while setting a Crimson Tide record with nine 100-yard rushing games. Ingram thrived on yards after contact with 1,075 of his 1,992 all-purpose yards (54 per cent) coming after the initial hit. He was a unanimous first-team All-America and the SEC Offensive Player of the Year. He set the Bryant-Denny Stadium record for rushing yards with 246 against South Carolina (on 24 carries). Ingram was at his best in the biggest games, averaging 188.8 yards rushing and receiving against top-25 opponents. He ran for 113 yards and three touchdowns against Florida's top-ranked defense in the SEC Championship Game and followed that up with 116 yards and two scores in the BCS National Championship victory over Texas, earning Offensive Player of the Game.



Heisman Trophy winner  
Mark Ingram

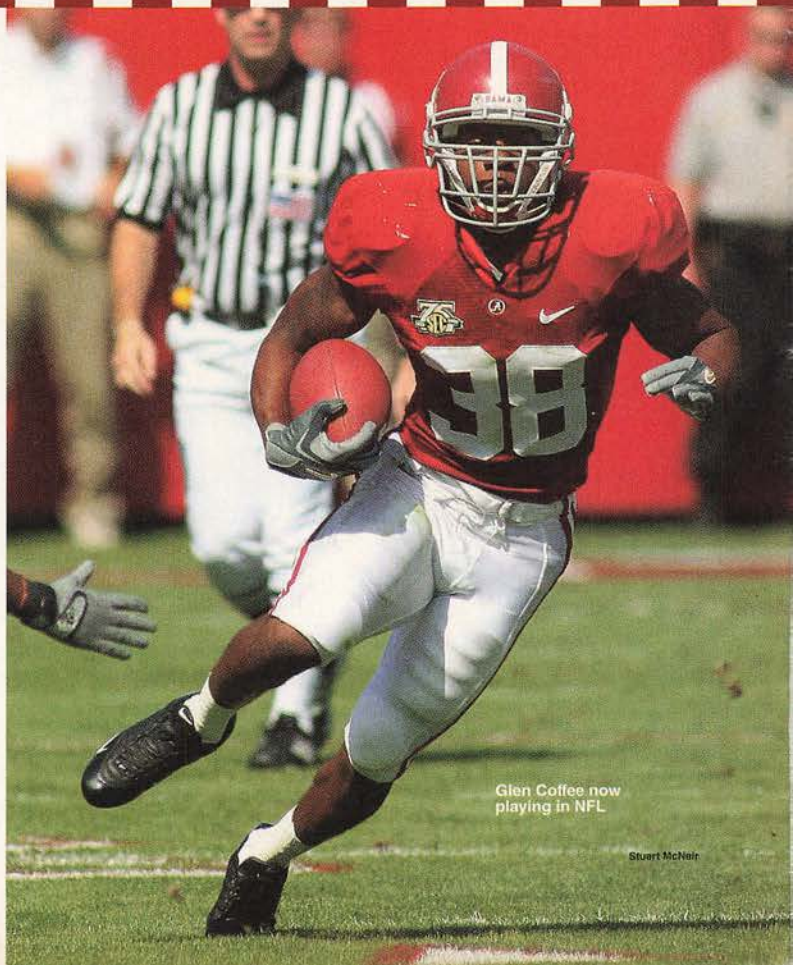
Stuart McNair

**RUNNING BACKS**

**Glen Coffee (2005-08)**

*Fort Walton Beach, Fla.*

How good was Glen Coffee? He started only one full season, 2008, but he was good enough to beat out Mark Ingram, who would win the Heisman Trophy after Coffee left Bama following his junior season to go to the NFL. Coffee was All-SEC as a junior and was a finalist for the Doak Walker Award for best running back in the nation as he rushed for 1,383 yards, tying Shaun Alexander for second best in Crimson Tide history. For his career he had 2,107 yards and averaged over five yards per carry. He had 218 rushing yards against Kentucky and recorded an 87-yard touchdown run against Arkansas. In Alabama's 36-0 win over Auburn he made first downs on seven of his 20 carries. Coffee led the SEC in rushing in league games with 117 yards per outing.

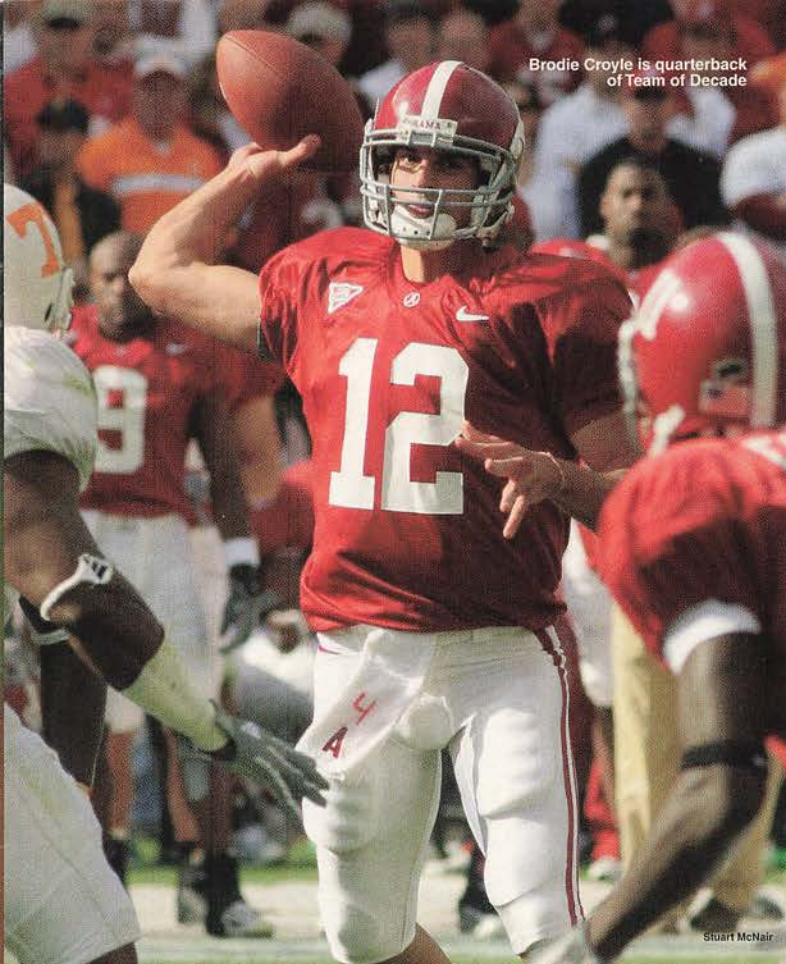


Glen Coffee now  
playing in NFL

Stuart McNair



Brodie Croyle is quarterback  
of Team of Decade



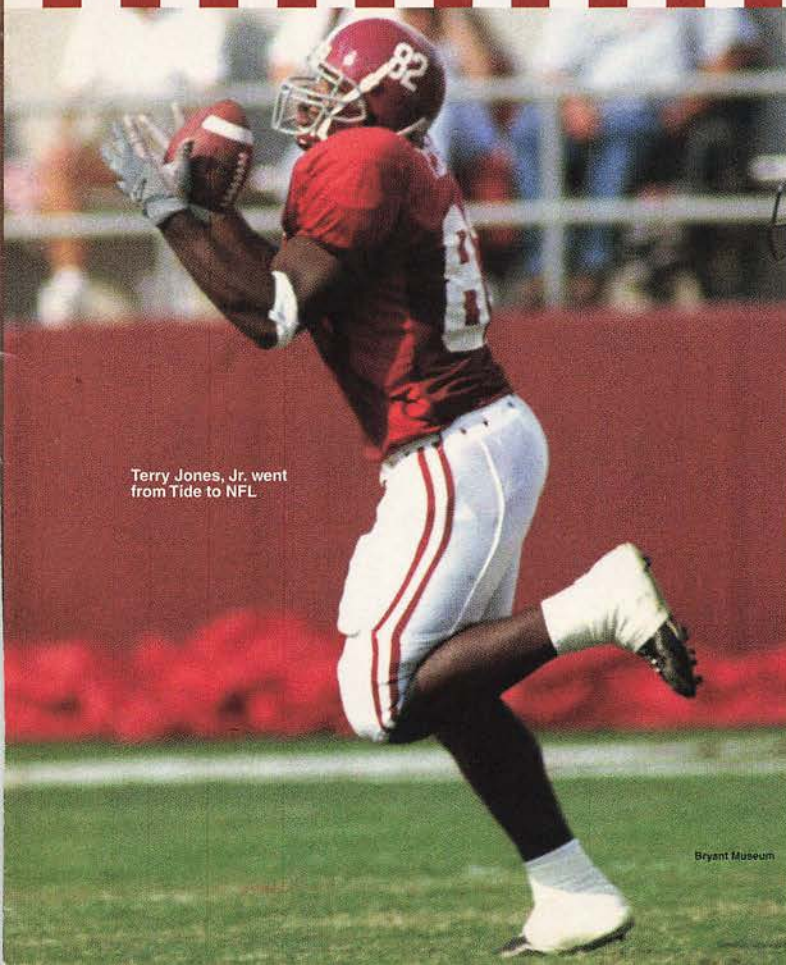
Stuart McNair

## QUARTERBACK

### **Brodie Croyle (2002-05)**

*Rainbow City*

Brodie Croyle finished on a high note. In his final game at quarterback in the 2006 Cotton Bowl win over Texas Tech, Croyle was named Most Valuable Player. He completed 19 of 31 passes for 275 yards and Bama's only touchdown (a short pass that Keith Brown turned into a 76-yard score on the second play of the game) in the 13-10 win. When Croyle's career ended, he was the Crimson Tide's record-holder in almost every passing and total offense statistic. He completed 488 passes for 6,382 yards and 41 touchdowns, which were all Bama records. He passed for over 1,000 yards as a freshman back-up, then for 2,303 as a sophomore. He was injured in the third game of his junior year and had only 534 yards passing, then finished his career with 2,499 yards as a senior. He also set Tide records for total offense yardage at 6,205. He had a streak of 190 passes without an interception. As a senior he was a finalist for the Johnny Unitas Award and a semifinalist for the Davey O'Brien Award. He is the son of former Tide defensive end John Croyle.



Terry Jones, Jr. went  
from Tide to NFL

Bryant Museum

## TIGHT END

### **Terry Jones, Jr. (1998-2001)**

*Tuscaloosa*

An outstanding athlete who considered a college career in basketball, the son of former Alabama and NFL great nose tackle Terry Jones was the combination coaches love in a tight end. He was an outstanding blocker and also a good pass receiver. The decade did not start well for T.J. as he suffered a season-ending knee injury against South Carolina in the fifth game of 2000, his junior year. He came back to start every game as a senior, catching 12 passes for 156 yards and two touchdowns. That doesn't include a key reception as he hauled in a 27-yard touchdown pass from Andrew Zow for the winning points in Alabama's 14-13 win over Iowa State in the Independence Bowl. For his career he had 31 receptions for 480 yards and three touchdowns.



**WIDE RECEIVERS**

**Tyrone Prothro (2003-05)**

*Heflin*

Although it was not the most important play in Alabama football history, there is no question that 'The Catch' by Tyrone Prothro has been the subject of more television time than any other. In what would be his final season because of injury, Prothro made one of the most spectacular catches in football history in the final moments of the first half against Southern Miss. Bama was trailing 21-10 when Prothro caught a pass that was over the back of the defender in front of him. The two tumbled down at the one-yard line, setting up a touchdown and changing momentum. It was the "Pontiac Game-Changing Play" of the season and continues to be shown in promotions for college football. Prothro had 279 all-purpose yards, including 134 yards on seven receptions. Prothro is also remembered for two other plays, in the same game. On Alabama's first play of what would be a 31-3 romp over Florida, he took a pass from Brodie Croyle for an 87-yard touchdown. Unfortunately, late in the game Prothro came down in the end zone while trying to catch a pass and suffered a career-ending knee injury. The All-SEC performer had 58 career receptions for 863 yards and 29 kickoff returns for 774 yards.



Tyrone Prothro will forever be known for 'The Catch'

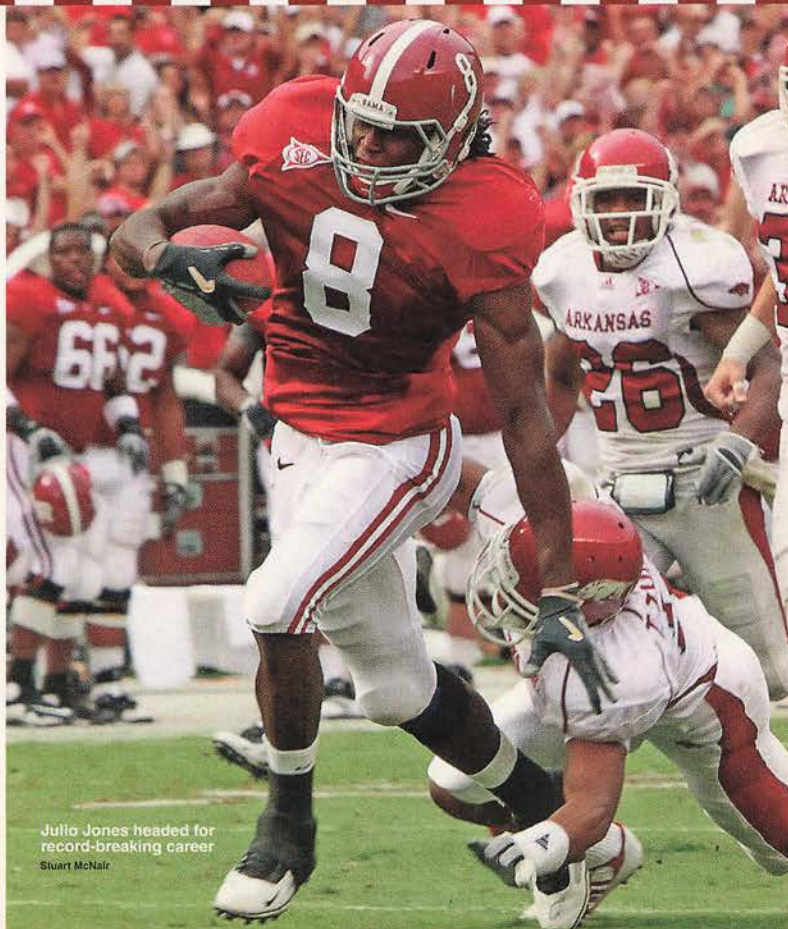
University of Alabama

**WIDE RECEIVERS**

**Julio Jones (2008-09)**

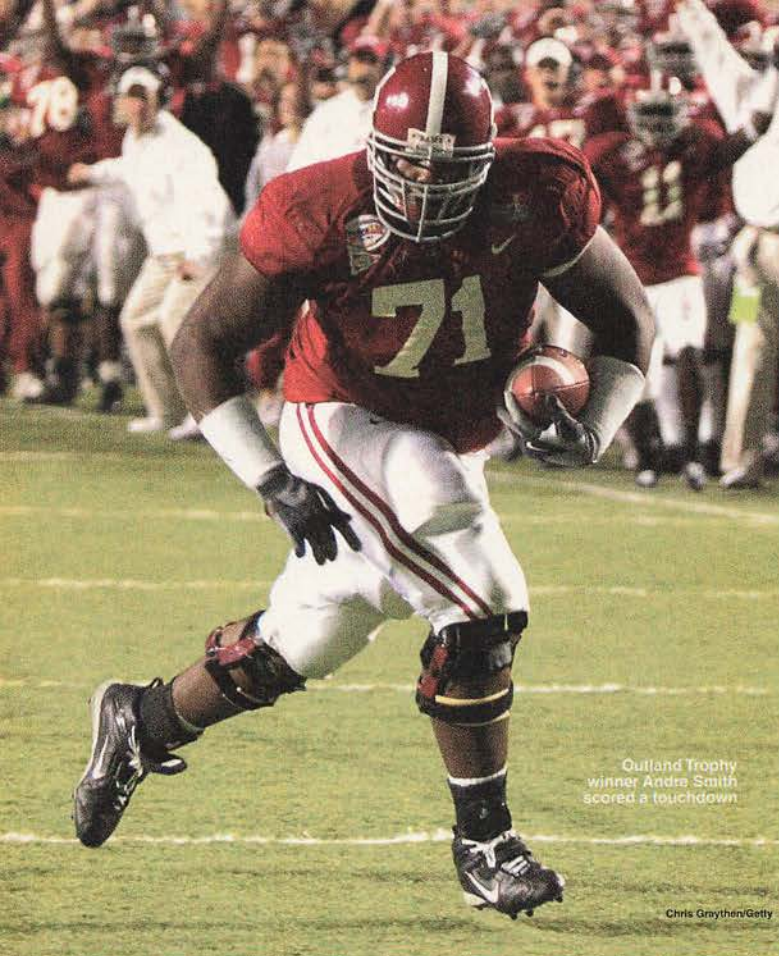
*Foley*

As a measure of how good Julio Jones is, consider that many thought he had something of an off-season in his sophomore season. Just as he did for a 12-2 team in 2008, Jones was led Bama's 2009 national championship team in receiving. As a freshman he had 58 catches for 924 yards and four touchdowns. Last year he had 43 catches for 596 yards and four touchdowns. He had an outstanding game in Bama's win at Auburn last year with nine receptions, five of them on a clutch 15-play fourth quarter drive for the winning points. He set every Alabama freshman receiving record and was Freshman All-America and both national and SEC Freshman of the Year. He has been second team All-SEC each of his first two seasons. He started the first game of his freshman year, the 11<sup>th</sup> Alabama player to do so since freshman eligibility returned in 1972. He had a 50-yard touchdown reception against Arkansas and took a short pass for a 73-yard touchdown against LSU.



Julio Jones headed for record-breaking career  
Stuart McNair





Outland Trophy winner Andre Smith scored a touchdown

Chris Graythen/Getty

#### OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

### Andre Smith (2006-08)

*Birmingham*

One of the greatest offensive linemen in Alabama history, Andre Smith won the 2008 Outland Trophy as the nation's outstanding lineman. He was a three-year starter for the Crimson Tide at the critical left tackle position. Smith was the only player in the nation to be a finalist for both the Outland and the Lombardi awards. He was a unanimous All-America as a junior (his final season before going to the NFL as a first round draft choice) and won the Jacobs Award as the best blocker in the SEC in his sophomore season. He had 38 career starts, including starting the first game of his freshman year, the seventh player in Alabama history to start his first game as a freshman. He was named Offensive Player of the Year by the Bama coaching staff as a junior.



Justin Smiley has had long NFL career

Benjamin Cohen

#### OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

### Justin Smiley (2001-03)

*Ellabell, Ga.*

Justin Smiley earned All-America honors in both his sophomore and junior seasons before leaving for the NFL and a long professional career. He was something of a hero of Alabama recruiting stories in that he reportedly spurned Steve Spurrier and Florida because Spurrier and Smiley's dog didn't get along. After a redshirt season, he started every game in his Alabama career. Smiley had almost 500 knockdown blocks in his three-year career at left guard. He was also a star in the weight room, where he set records for offensive linemen. Smiley was a Freshman All-America in 2001.

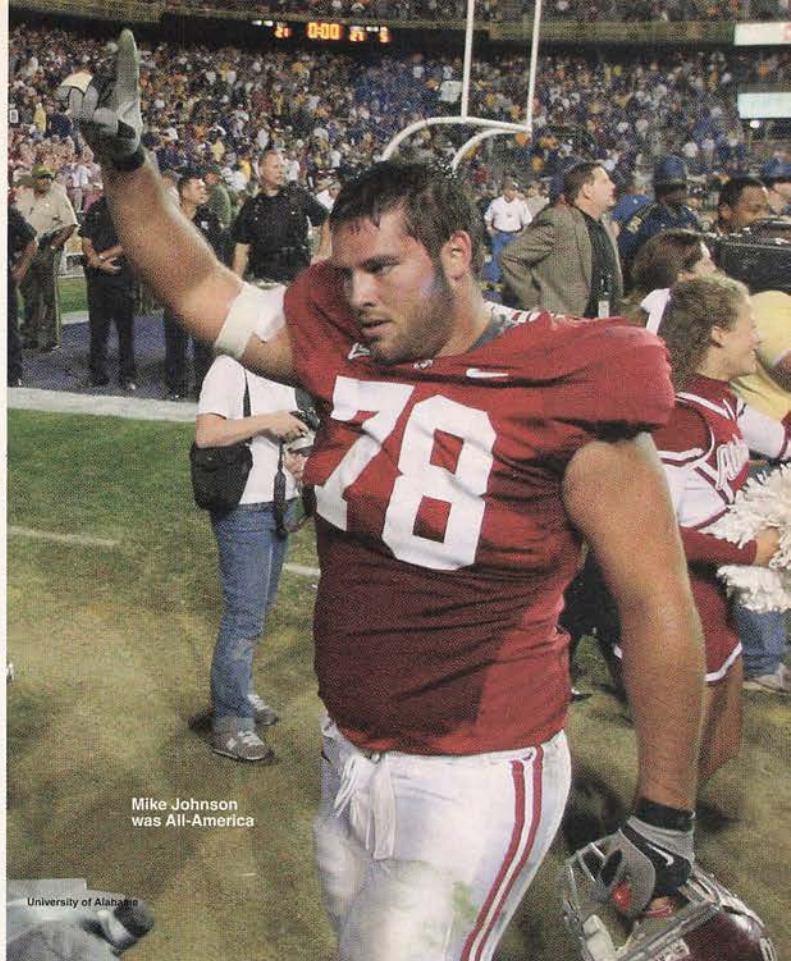


**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN**

**Mike Johnson (2001-03)**

*Pensacola, Fla.*

Alabama's national championship in 2009 was in great part because of an outstanding offensive line, and the leader of the offensive line was Mike Johnson. He was also a team leader, elected captain of the offense. Johnson was a first team All-America and unanimous All-SEC performer as a senior after having been All-America as a junior and All-SEC as both a sophomore and a junior. He played a school record 54 games in his career and had 41 consecutive starts. He started his career as a right tackle, but moved to left guard as a junior. He had two starts at left tackle his junior year. He was awarded the Mal Moore Leadership Award.



Mike Johnson  
was All-America

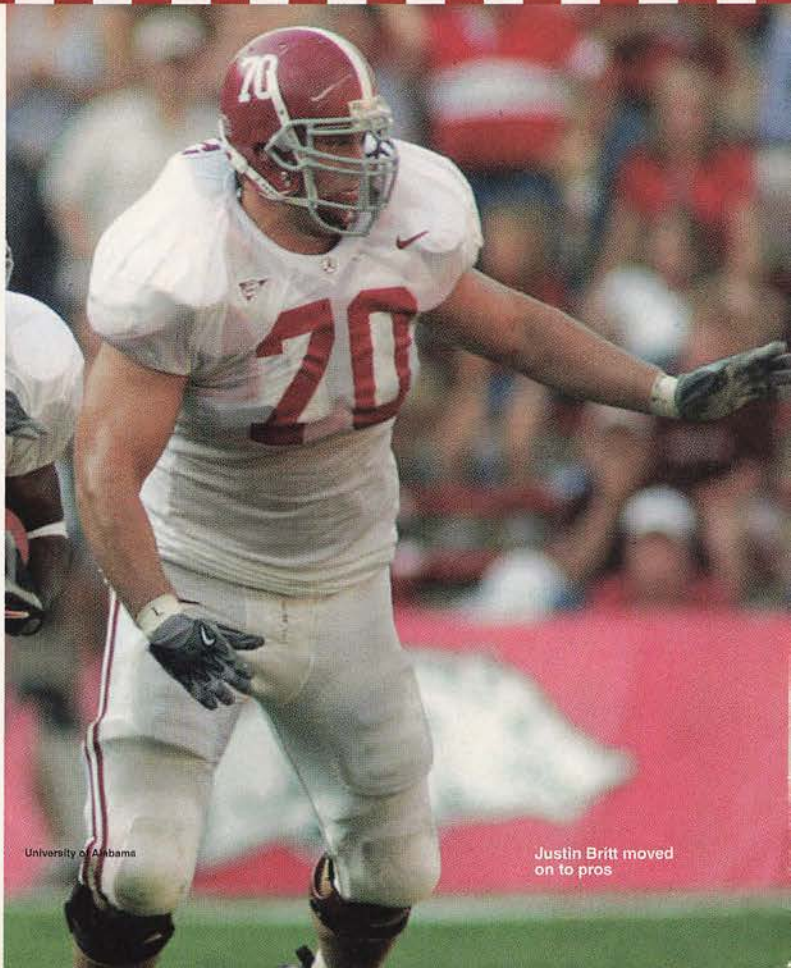
University of Alabama

**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN**

**Wesley Britt (2001-04)**

*Cullman*

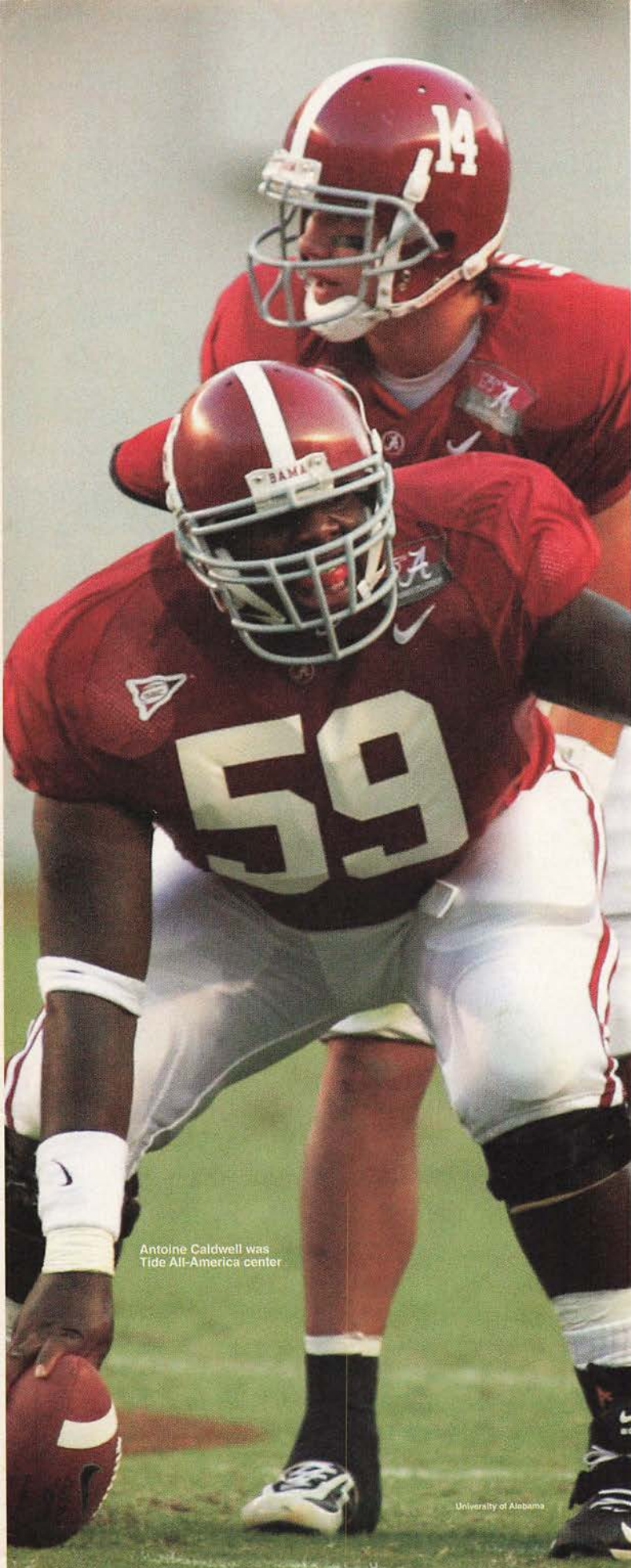
In his senior season, Wesley was able to play on the same team with two brothers, defensive lineman Justin and offensive lineman Taylor. Wesley was a star left tackle who was winner of the Jacobs Award as the SEC's top blocker as selected by league coaches. He was a four-year starter after redshirting in 2000. He was All-SEC three years and received All-America recognition as a junior and senior. He was also a Freshman All-SEC player. Britt also earned Academic All-SEC recognition and played his senior season as a graduate. He missed four games of his junior season after suffering a broken leg against Tennessee, a dramatic situation in which he roused the Bryant-Denny crowd while being taken from the stadium. He had started 34 consecutive games before the injury.



University of Alabama

Justin Britt moved  
on to pros





Antoine Caldwell was Tide All-America center.

University of Alabama

## CENTER

### Antoine Caldwell (2005-08)

#### Montgomery

Antoine Caldwell was a finalist for the Rimington Trophy, given to the nation's top center, in his senior year. He started 48 games in his career and was an All-America and All-SEC as a senior. He was a rare two-time Alabama captain, elected both as a junior and a senior. He received Freshman All-America recognition in 2005. He began his career as a guard, but moved to center during his freshman season. He was SEC Lineman of the Week six times in his career. As a senior, his teammates named him Bama's Most Inspiring Player. He passed up the opportunity to turn professional following his junior season, making him a candidate for the Lowe's CLASS Award, which goes to college athletes who excel in all areas and spend four years in college.

## What It Means To Be Crimson Tide

*Gene Stallings and Alabama's Greatest Players*

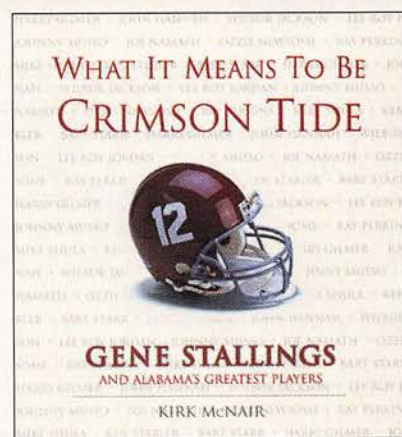
Alabama football means championships and All-America players and, for many, a man in a houndstooth hat. Some 60 Alabama players who performed over a 75-year period tell us "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide."

Former Alabama Coach Gene Stallings and BAMA Editor Kirk McNair selected players who tell the stories of games and practices, coaches and teammates. The story of "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide."

Among those featured are Harry Gilmer, Bart Starr, Lee Roy Jordan, Joe Namath, Ken Stabler, Johnny Musso, John Hannah, Ozzie Newsome, and Jay Barker.

Gene Stallings reveals much of his philosophy and reveals why he did NOT follow Paul Bryant as Alabama head football coach in 1983. Kirk McNair introduces the players.

"What It Means To Be Crimson Tide—Gene Stallings and Alabama's Greatest Players" is a hardcover book of over 300 pages in an oversized format with archival photographs throughout. To order (\$27.95 plus tax, shipping and handling) call 1-205-345-5074. You may request a personalized autograph from Kirk McNair.





## TEAM OF THE DECADE BY KIRK McNAIR

### DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

#### Jarret Johnson (1999-2002)

Chiefland, Fla.

Jarret Johnson was a two-time captain (2001 and 2002) for Alabama. He played as a true freshman in 1999, including getting a couple of starts, and then was a three-year starter at defensive tackle. Johnson was All-SEC three seasons. Although he was a tackle, he had defensive end type statistics with 60 quarterback hurries in his final three seasons. He also had a total of 23 sacks for a total of 193 yards and 25 tackles for losses of 22 yards. He was one of Alabama's top three all-time players in having combined tackles for losses and sacks. Following his senior season he was an NFL draft choice.



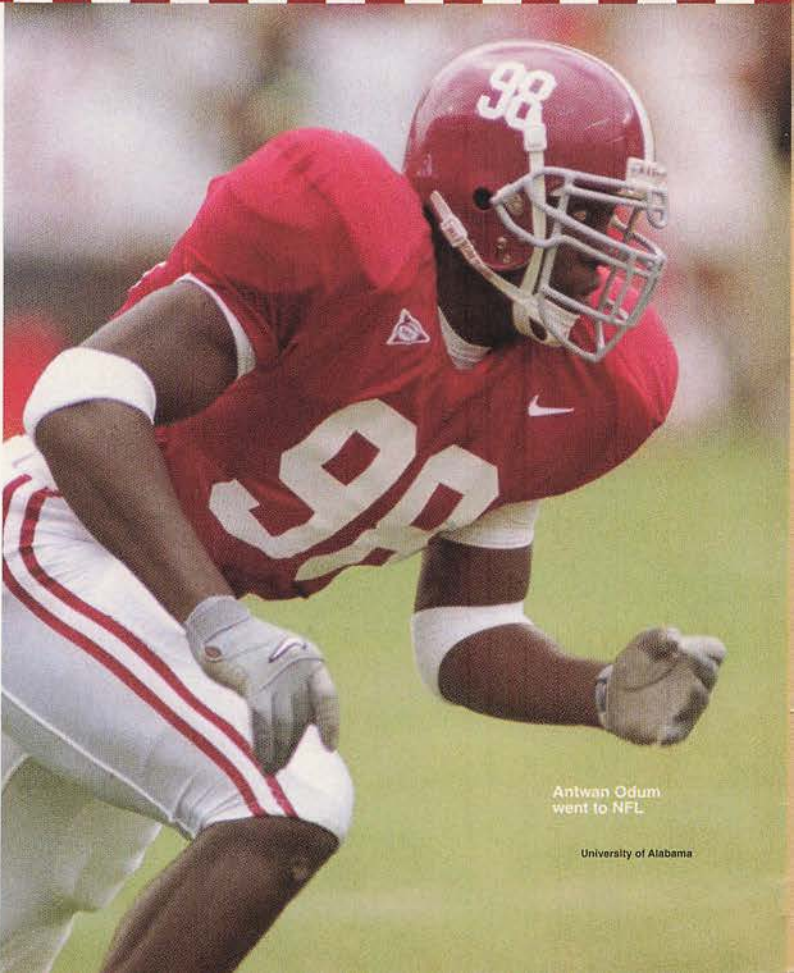
Jarret Johnson was Tide defensive leader

### DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

#### Antwan Odom (2000-03)

Bayou LaBatre

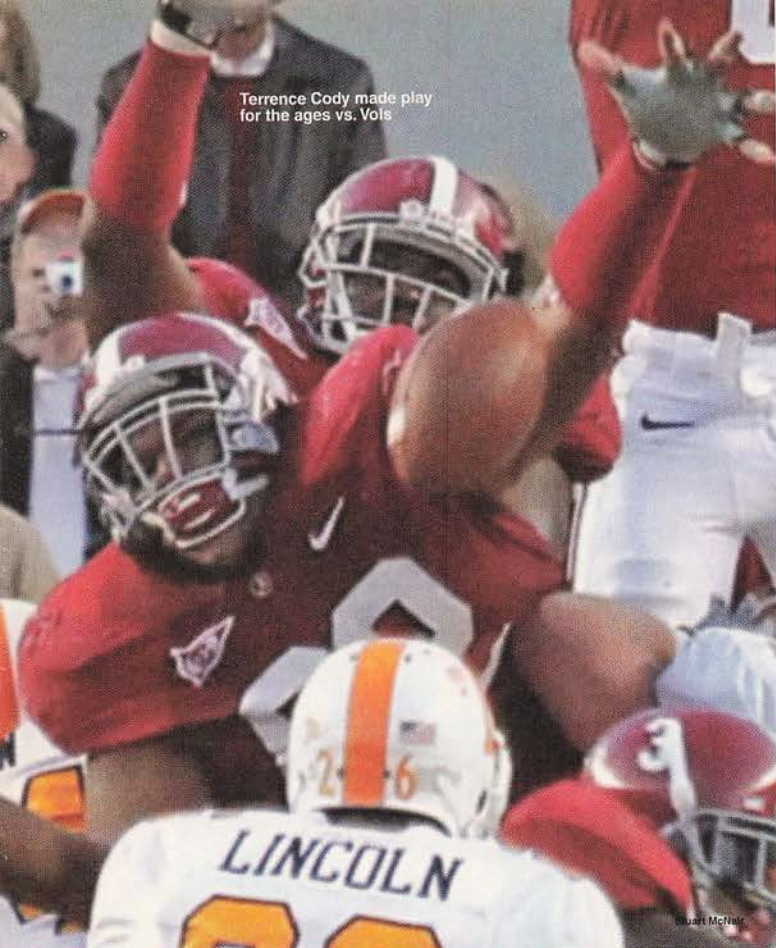
Antoine Odom didn't become a fulltime starter until his junior season in 2003, but he was an important player even when sharing starting time. As a sophomore in 2002 he was seventh in the nation in sacks as he led the team with 10 for 76 yards. He also led Bama in sacks as a junior in 2003 with eight for 53 yards. Odom, who played at right end, saw action in every game as a true freshman in 2000 and had 13 tackles with three for loss and added three sacks. His second season, he suffered a shoulder injury early in the second game and was lost for the year. In his redshirt sophomore year he had 42 tackles, and as a junior had 40 stops. He led Bama in 2003 with 10 tackles for lost yardage of 65 yards. He went to the NFL following his All-SEC junior season in 2003.



Antwan Odom went to NFL



Terrence Cody made play for the ages vs. Vols



#### DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

### Terrence Cody (2008-09)

Fort Myers, Fla.

Terrence Cody had one scholarship offer out of Gulf Coast Community College in Mississippi following the 2007 season. Alabama Coach Nick Saban thought he could find a use for an athletic 6-5, 350-pound nose guard. Cody became a cult figure of Alabama football. Although Cody ordinarily played just two plays per series, coming out on most passing downs, and had just 52 tackles in two seasons, he was an All-America because of his impact on the game. And he will be remembered for the role he played in preserving Alabama's undefeated season with two fourth quarter blocks of field goal attempts by Tennessee in a 12-10 Bama win. He was a finalist for the Lombardi Award for the nation's best lineman or linebacker; the Nagurski Award and the Benarik Award for the nation's best defensive player; and was on the watch list for the Outland Trophy, which goes to the nation's best lineman. In Cody's two years at Bama, no opposing runner had a 100-yard game.

SPORTS ★ CONCERTS ★ THEATRE

SECTION                      EVENT                      VENUE  
ANY TICKET           ANY EVENT           ANYWHERE

[www.TicketSolutions.com](http://www.TicketSolutions.com)



# TICKET SOLUTIONS

PROVIDING UNFORGETTABLE ENTERTAINMENT EXPERIENCES

Order Tickets Online or Call Toll Free

**800.477.5285**

#### TICKET SOLUTIONS OFFERS:

- ★ Premium Seats
- ★ Sold-out Events
- ★ College Sports
- ★ Professional Sports
- ★ Major Concerts
- ★ Broadway/Off-Broadway
- ★ Vegas Theatre Events

SECTION                      EVENT                      VENUE  
ANY TICKET           ANY EVENT           ANYWHERE

[www.TicketSolutions.com](http://www.TicketSolutions.com)



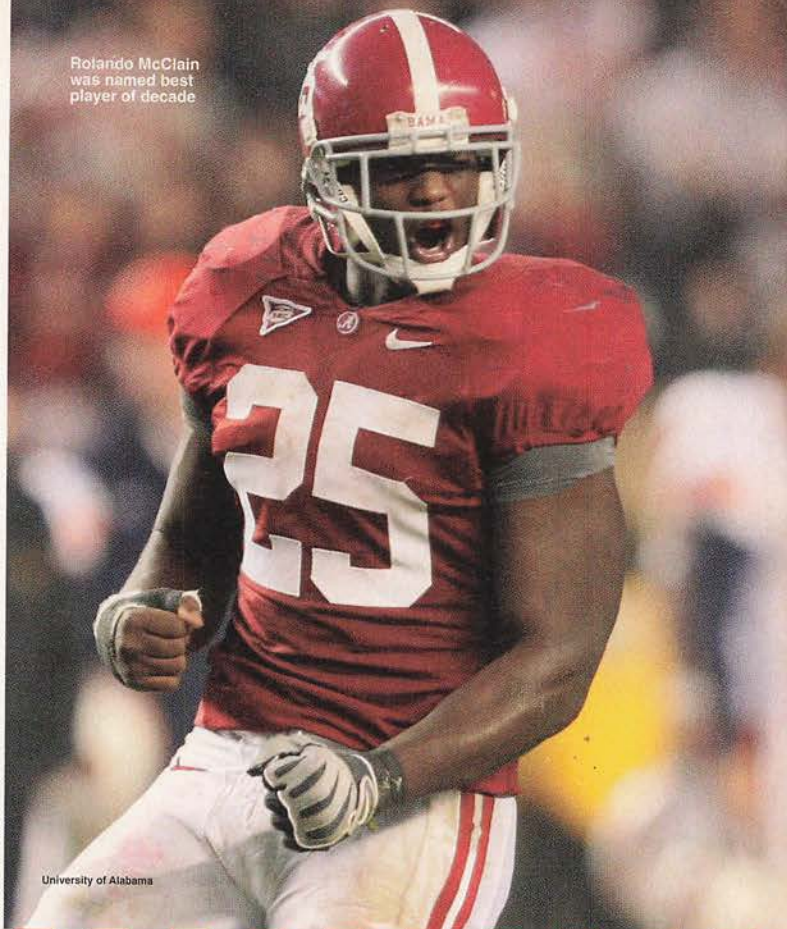
**LINEBACKERS**

**Rolando McClain (2007-09)**

*Decatur*

The "Player of the Decade," Rolando McClain won Alabama's second Butkus Award, took home the Lambert Award, and was a unanimous first-team All-America and the SEC Defensive Player of the Year as a senior. In his three years at The Capstone, McClain made a total of 37 starts. He led the team in tackles in 2009 with 105 total stops, including 14.5 for loss. He had four sacks, a forced fumble which led to a touchdown, two interceptions, and 14 quarterback hurries. His teammates voted him a permanent captain following the 2009 regular season. He was a three-year All-SEC performer at middle linebacker and was a Freshman All-America. He had 75 tackles as a freshman and 95 as a sophomore.

Rolando McClain  
was named best  
player of decade



University of Alabama

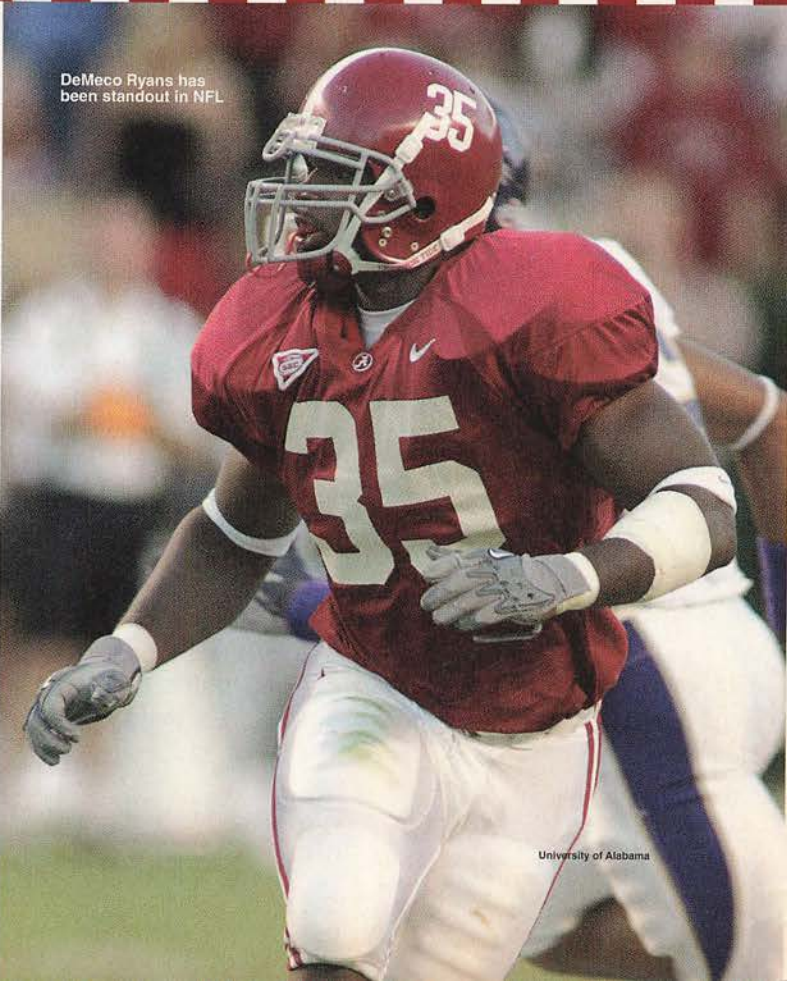
**LINEBACKERS**

**DeMeco Ryans (2002-05)**

*Bessemer*

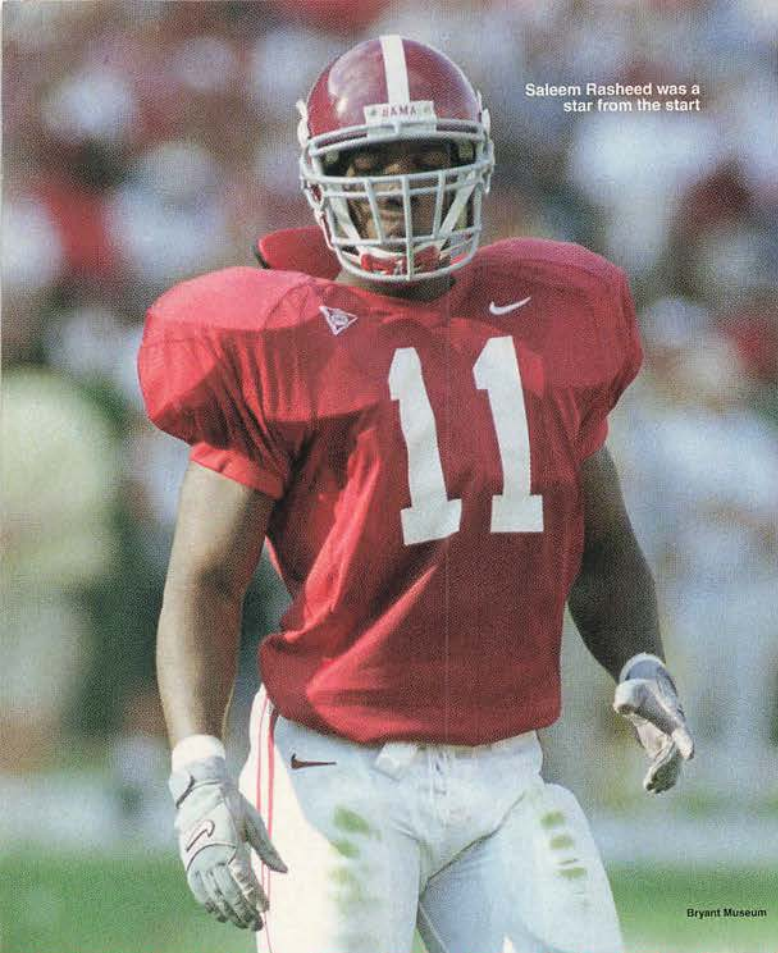
DeMeco Ryans ended his Alabama career being named Defensive Player of the Game in the Cotton Bowl as the Crimson Tide held the high-powered Texas Tech offense to only 10 points in a 13-10 Bama win. He was a four-year letterman and three-year starter at strongside linebacker. Ryans was an All-America as a senior and was recipient of the Lott Award as the nation's best defensive player. He was SEC Player of the Year and a finalist for the Butkus, Bednarik, Lombardi, and Nagurski awards for football and a finalist for the Draddy Award for scholarship. He led Bama in tackles as a senior with 69, including 15 against Arkansas. He was second on the team in tackles as a junior with 78. As a sophomore he led Bama in tackles with 126 (including a Tide record 25 against Arkansas) and was one of three men on the team to have over 100 tackles, a first in Bama history. (Roman Harper had 111 and Derrick Pope 105).

DeMeco Ryans has  
been standout in NFL



University of Alabama





Saleem Rasheed was a star from the start

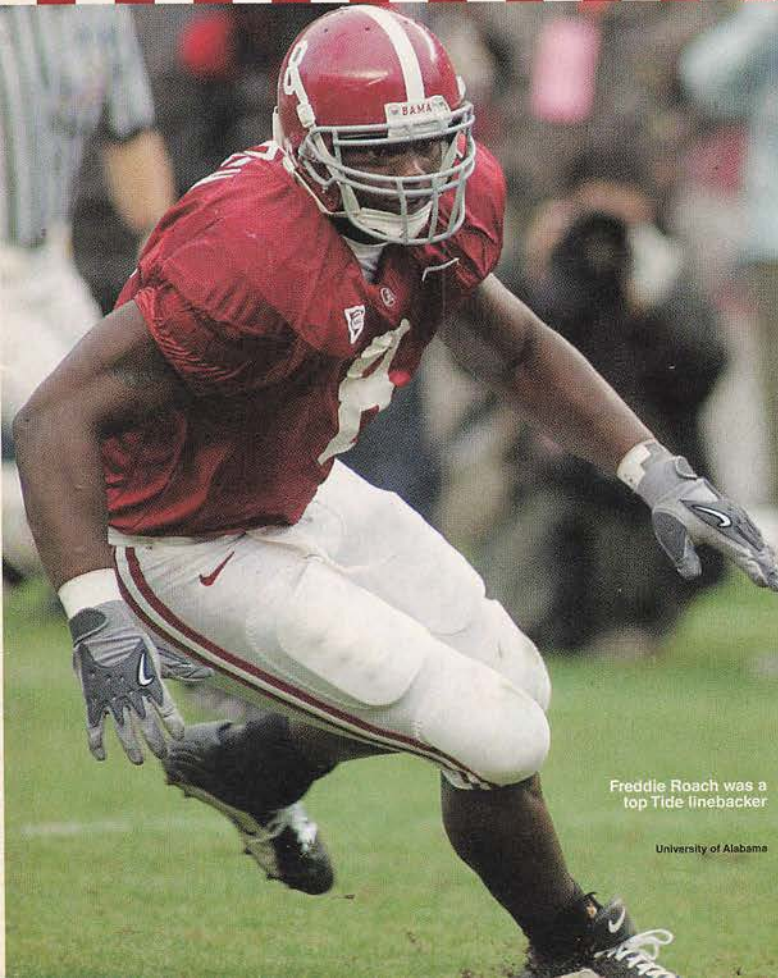
Bryant Museum

## LINEBACKERS

### Saleem Rasheed (1999-2001)

*Birmingham*

Saleem Rasheed elected to turn professional following his junior season, when he led Alabama with 114 tackles, including seven for losses. He also had two sacks and caused two fumbles. Rasheed was Freshman All-SEC and Freshman Defensive Player of the Year in his first season with the Tide as turned in 84 tackles, including eight for losses totaling 39 yards, and had three sacks and a fumble recovery in 1999. Rasheed had 13 tackles against Tennessee as a freshman. He started in the first game of his freshman year at middle linebacker and would start 35 games in his Bama career. He was the first Tide freshman to start his first game on defense in the modern era. Rasheed, an Academic All-SEC performer, had 81 tackles as a sophomore.



Freddie Roach was a top Tide linebacker

University of Alabama

## LINEBACKERS

### Freddie Roach (2002-05)

*Killen*

After being redshirted in 2001, Freddie Roach became a regular starter for the Crimson Tide as a freshman and sophomore. He split starting time as a junior and then had an all-star senior season playing middle linebacker. He played in 50 games in his Bama career. Roach started his career in a big way. In his first game, against MTSU, he intercepted a pass and returned it 41 yards for a touchdown. He finished his career ranked in the top 10 all-time in tackles for Alabama. He was first team Freshman All-SEC in 2002. He finished his Alabama career with 269 tackles, including 24 tackles for losses totaling 72 yards. He had four sacks for 18 yards, caused six fumbles, and recovered three.



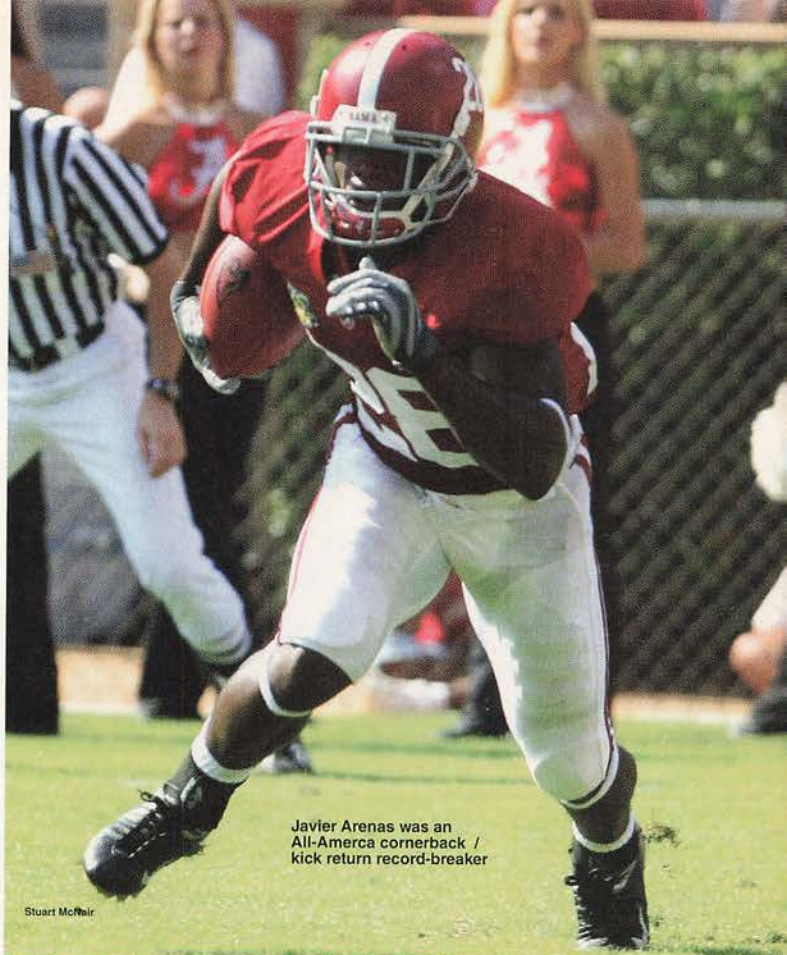
## TEAM OF THE DECADE BY KIRK McNAIR

### DEFENSIVE BACKS

#### Javier Arenas (2006-09)

Tampa, Fla.

Javier Arenas was a lightly recruited player who became an All-America as a cornerback and a record-setting kick return man for the Crimson Tide. As a senior on Alabama's 14-0 national championship team, Arenas was named Southeastern Conference Special Teams Player of the Year. He ranked third in tackles for Bama as a senior with 71 tackles and was second on the team and fifth in the SEC with 12 tackles for loss (for 85 yards). He had five interceptions as a senior, including two in the national championship game. For his career he had 154 tackles, seven sacks, 13 passes broken up, and six interceptions. As a punt return man he was fourth nationally and first in the SEC and with 1,752 total career yards came within 10 yards of the national record. He set the SEC career record.



Javier Arenas was an All-America cornerback / kick return record-breaker

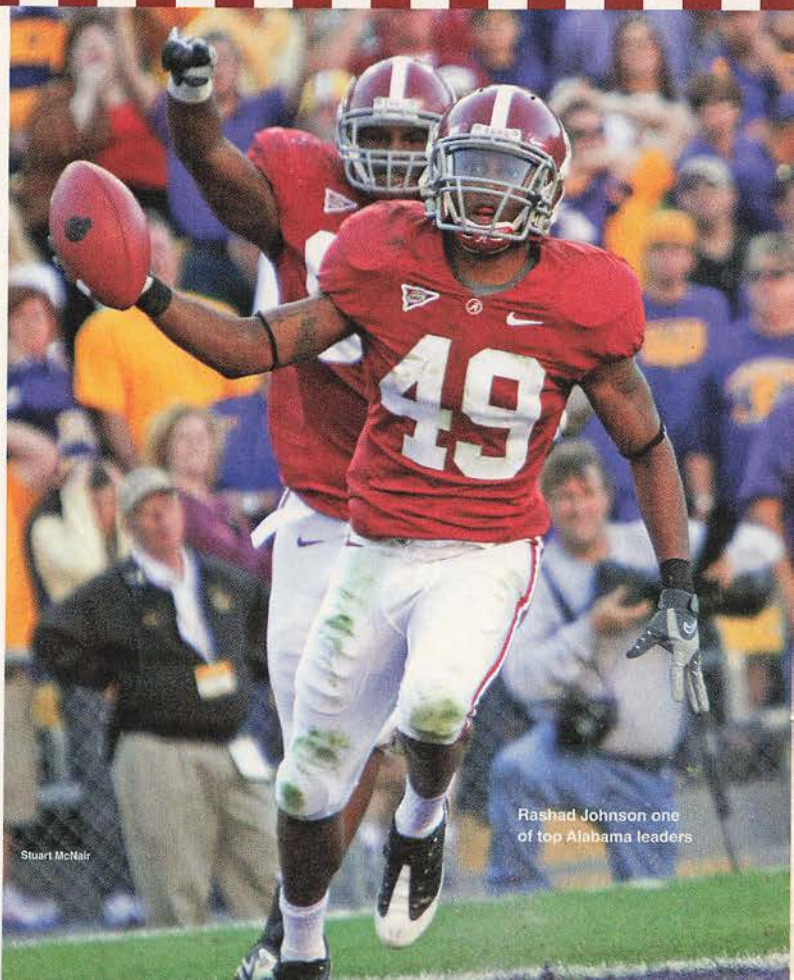
Stuart McNair

### DEFENSIVE BACKS

#### Rashad Johnson (2005-08)

Sulligent

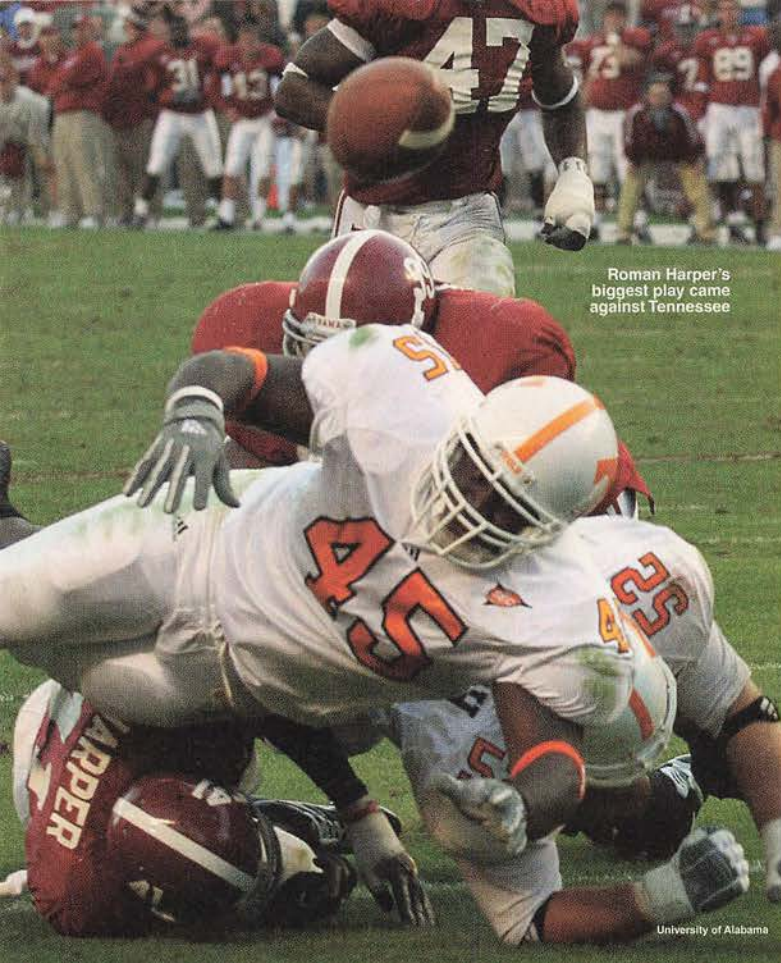
Rashad Johnson came to Alabama as a walk-on running back and finished his career as a key defensive player, the "quarterback of the defense" for the 2008 Bama team that went 12-2. He was first team All-America and SEC Defensive Player of the Year as a senior. He was a unanimous All-SEC selection as he ranked second on the team with 82 tackles. As a senior safety he had three of his five interceptions in a key win at LSU. Against the Bengal Tigers he returned one interception for a touchdown. His third came in overtime as Alabama took the victory. He became one of just eight players in Alabama history to be elected permanent team captain both as a junior and a senior. For his career he was in on 217 tackles, broke up 19 tackles, caused six fumbles, and had 11 interceptions.



Rashad Johnson one of top Alabama leaders

Stuart McNair





Roman Harper's biggest play came against Tennessee

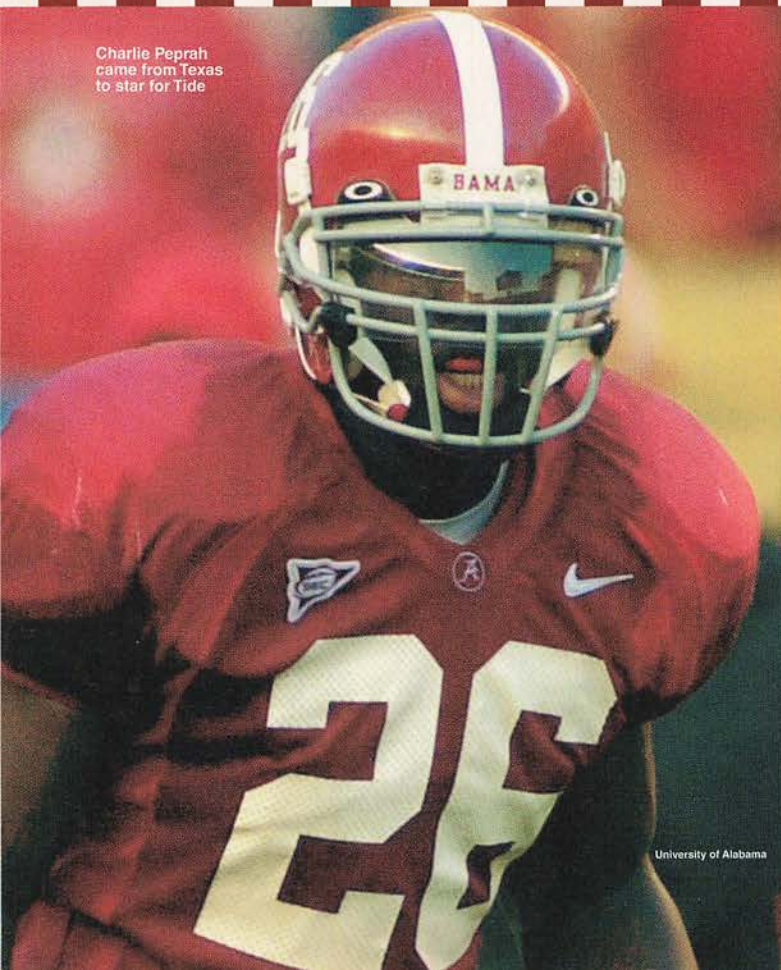
University of Alabama

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

### Roman Harper (2002-05)

Prattville

Roman Harper is one of those Alabama players who is forever remembered for one play, even though he made dozens and dozens of outstanding plays in his Crimson Tide career. In his senior season, his bone jarring tackle of a Tennessee fullback near the Alabama goalline caused a fumble that went out of the end zone for a touchback. From there, Bama drove to a field goal with 13 seconds to play to defeat the Vols 6-3. Harper was an All-SEC performer his senior season. He was a four-year regular and three-year starter. He was part of the 100-tackle triumverate of 2003 when DeMeco Ryans had 126, Harper 111, and Derrick Pope 105. He had 300 tackles in his career at safety and also had five interceptions and caused five fumbles.



Charlie Peprah came from Texas to star for Tide

University of Alabama

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

### Charlie Peprah (2002-05)

Plano, Texas

After being redshirted in 2001, Charlie Peprah was a Freshman All-America in 2002 as he was a starter in eight games and had 38 consecutive starts for Bama. For his career the strong safety had 209 tackles and nine interceptions, which he returned for 214 yards (fifth in Tide history). He also caused four fumbles and recovered five. As a sophomore, Peprah broke up 19 passes. He returned two interceptions for touchdowns in his career, a 35-yarder against Georgia in 2002 and a 51-yarder against South Florida to provide the first points in the Mike Shula coaching era. The Academic All-SEC performer earned both his undergraduate degree and his master's degree before he played his final game.

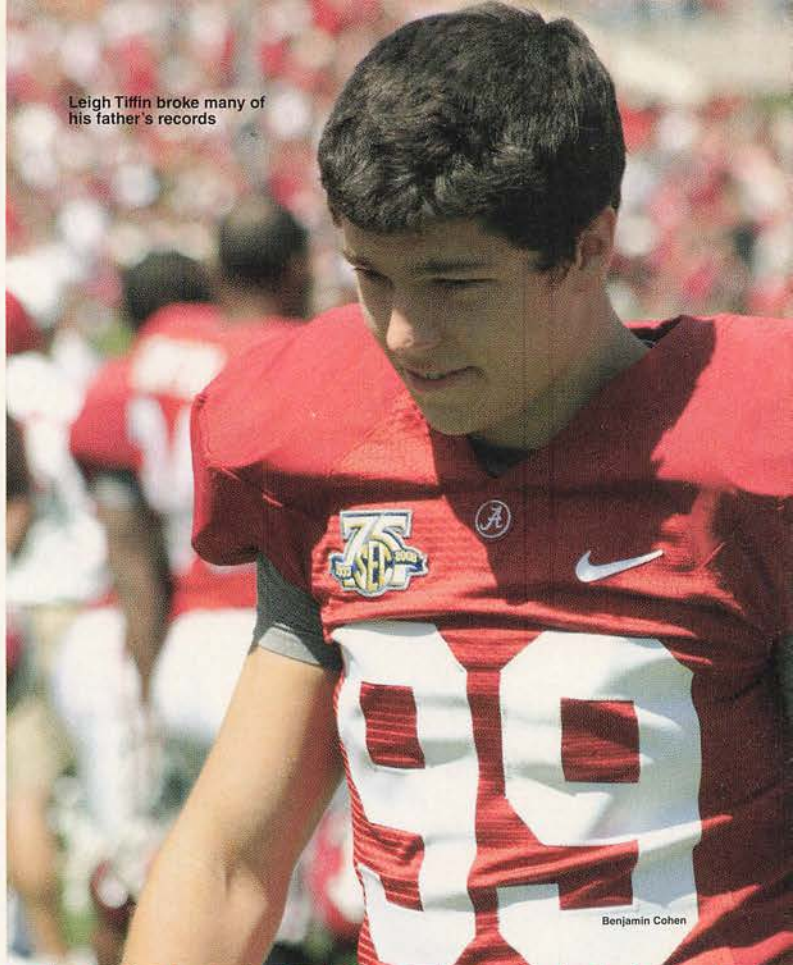


**PLACEKICKER**

**Leigh Tiffin (2006-09)**

*Muscle Shoals*

Leigh Tiffin joined his father as a member of a team of the decade, in part by breaking many of Van Tiffin's records. He was first team All-America as a senior and was a finalist for the Lou Groza Award, given to the nation's best placekicker. He led the nation with 30 field goals in 2009 (one short of the NCAA single season record) and had 83 in his career (four shy of the national record). He led the nation in career field goals and in career points (385) through his final season. He was the national kicker of the week three times as a senior, including vs. Tennessee when he made four field goals in a 12-10 Bama win and against Ole Miss when he made five field goals. His 132 kick scoring points as a senior is a Tide record. For his career he was 83-110 on field goal attempts and 136-142 on extra point kicks.



Leigh Tiffin broke many of his father's records

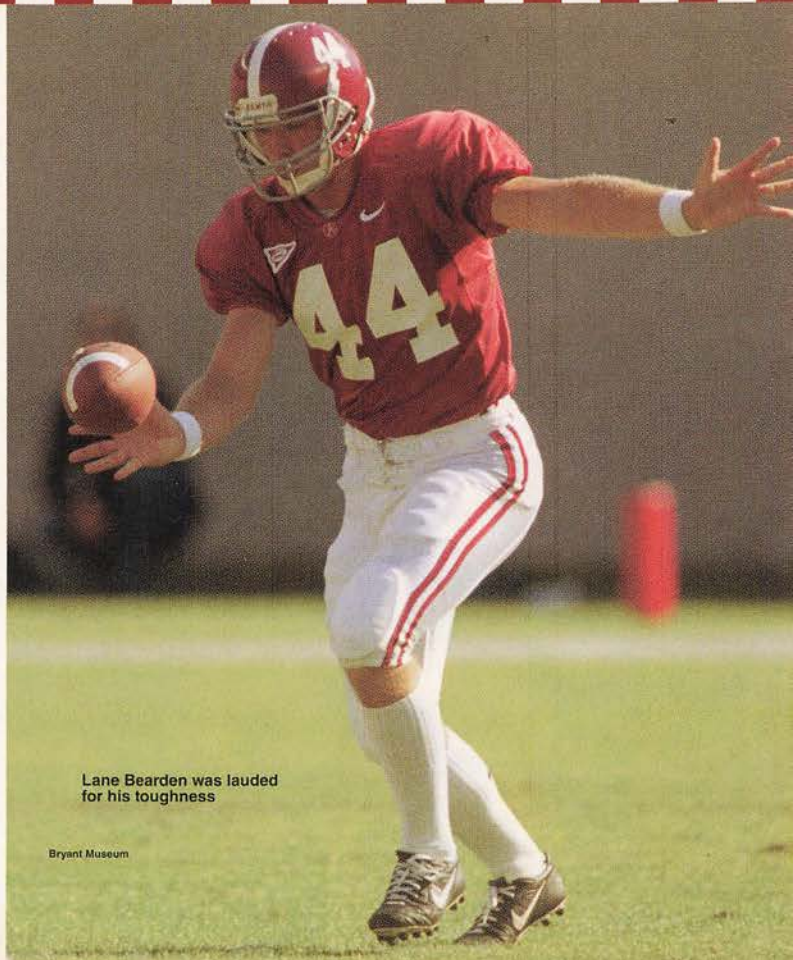
Benjamin Cohen

**PUNTER**

**Lane Bearden (1999-2002)**

*Pelham*

A tight end in high school and teammate of Tyler Watts, Bearden started his Alabama career in 1998 with a redshirt and was a kickoff man in his first year of competition in 1999. In 2000 he became the Alabama punter and kicked 60 punts for a 40.7 yard average with a long of 62. As a junior, he kicked 50 times and averaged 39.6 yards with a long of 58. In his senior season, Bearden punted 50 times for a 41.5 average with a long of 55. Bearden was able to perform despite suffering a serious knee injury. He also earned fame as Alabama's kickoff man by making 11 tackles. When a South Carolina assassin tried to take him down, Bearden turned the tables, dumping the Gamecock at midfield.



Lane Bearden was lauded for his toughness

Bryant Museum



# Alabama Teams Of The Decades

## 1960s

### Offense

Tight End: Bill Battle  
Wide Receiver: Ray Perkins  
Wide Receiver: Dennis Homan  
Lineman: Billy Neighbors  
Lineman: Cecil Dowdy  
Lineman: Alvin Samples  
Lineman: Jimmy Sharpe  
Center: Paul Crane  
Quarterback: Joe Namath  
Quarterback: Kenny Stabler  
Running Back: Steve Bowman  
Running Back: Mike Fracchia  
Placekicker: Tim Davis

### Defense

End: Mike Ford  
End: Creed Gilmer  
Lineman: Billy Neighbors  
Lineman: Alvin Samples  
Lineman: Dan Kearley  
Linebacker: Lee Roy Jordan  
Linebacker: Mike Hall  
Linebacker: Darwin Holt  
Defensive Back: Bobby Johns  
Defensive Back: Donnie Sutton  
Defensive Back: Cotton Clark  
Punter: Steve Davis

### Player of the Decade of the 1960s:

Lee Roy Jordan

## 1970s

### Offense

Tight End: Ozzie Newsome  
Wide Receiver: Wayne Wheeler  
Lineman: John Hannah  
Lineman: Buddy Brown  
Lineman: Jim Bunch  
Lineman: Buddy Aydelette  
Center: Dwight Stephenson  
Quarterback: Richard Todd  
Running Back: Johnny Musso  
Running Back: Major Ogilvie  
Running Back: Johnny Davis  
Placekicker: Bill Davis

### Defense

End: Lee Roy Cook  
End: E.J. Junior  
Lineman: Bob Baumhower  
Lineman: Marty Lyons  
Lineman: Gus White

Linebacker: Barry Krauss  
Linebacker: Woodrow Lowe  
Defensive Back: Mike Washington  
Defensive Back: Ricky Davis  
Defensive Back: Murray Legg  
Defensive Back: Don McNeal  
Punter: Greg Gantt

### Player of the Decade of the 1970s:

Ozzie Newsome

## 1980s

### Offense

Tight End: Lamonde Russell  
Wide Receiver: Joey Jones  
Wide Receiver: Al Bell  
Lineman: Bill Condon  
Lineman: Terrill Chatman  
Lineman: Bob Cayavec  
Lineman: Larry Rose  
Center: Wes Neighbors  
Quarterback: Gary Hollingsworth  
Running Back: Bobby Humphrey  
Running Back: Ricky Moore  
Placekicker: Van Tiffin

### Defense

Outside Linebacker: Cornelius Bennett  
Outside Linebacker: Derrick Thomas  
Lineman: Mike Pitts  
Lineman: Jon Hand  
Lineman: Willie Wyatt  
Inside Linebacker: Keith McCants  
Inside Linebacker: Thomas Boyd  
Defensive Back: John Mangum  
Defensive Back: Kermit Kendrick  
Defensive Back: Jeremiah Castille  
Defensive Back: Tommy Wilcox  
Punter: Chris Mohr

### Player of the Decade of the 1980s:

Cornelius Bennett

## 1990s

### Offense

Tight End: Patrick Hape  
Wide Receiver: David Palmer  
Wide Receiver: Freddie Milons  
Lineman: Jon Stevenson  
Lineman: Will Friend  
Lineman: Roosevelt Patterson  
Lineman: Chris Samuels  
Center: Roger Shultz  
Quarterback: Jay Barker

Running Back: Shaun Alexander  
Running Back: Kevin Turner  
Placekicker: Philip Doyle

### Defense

Linebacker: Dwayne Rudd  
Linebacker: Antonio London  
Linebacker: Lemanski Hall  
Lineman: Eric Curry  
Lineman: John Copeland  
Lineman: Shannon Brown  
Lineman: Cornelius Griffin  
Defensive Back: George Teague  
Defensive Back: Antonio Langham  
Defensive Back: Sam Shade  
Defensive Back: Fernando Bryant  
Punter: Daniel Pope

### Player of the Decade of the 1990s:

Jay Barker

## Alabama's All-Century Team (1892-1992)

### Offense

End: Don Hutson (1932-34)  
End: Ozzie Newsome (1974-77)  
Lineman: Fred Sington (1928-30)  
Lineman: John Hannah (1970-72)  
Lineman: Billy Neighbors (1959-61)  
Lineman: Vaughn Mancha (1944-47)  
Center: Dwight Stephenson (1977-79)  
Quarterback: Joe Namath (1962-64)  
Quarterback: Kenny Stabler (1965-67)  
Running Back: Bobby Marlow (1950-52)  
Running Back: Johnny Musso (1969-71)  
Running Back: Bobby Humphrey (1985-88)  
Placekicker: Van Tiffin (1983-86)

### Defense

Lineman: Bob Baumhower (1973-76)  
Lineman: Marty Lyons (1975-78)  
Lineman: Jon Hand (1982-85)  
Inside Linebacker: Lee Roy Jordan (1960-62)  
Inside Linebacker: Barry Krauss (1976-78)  
Outside Linebacker: Cornelius Bennett (1983-86)  
Outside Linebacker: Derrick Thomas (1985-88)  
Defensive Back: Harry Gilmer (1944-47)  
Defensive Back: Don McNeal (1977-79)  
Defensive Back: Jeremiah Castille (1979-82)  
Defensive Back: Tommy Wilcox (1979-82)  
Punter: Johnny Cain (1930-32)

**Coach: Paul Bryant**



**FOOTBALL**  
BY CARY L. CLARK

# What A Back-Up

Richardson stars behind Heisman winner



Trent Richardson was outstanding  
as back-up to Heisman winner

Stuart McNeil



**R**oy Upchurch hopes to catch on with an NFL team, and many believe he has a great opportunity to do that. It's not exactly earth-shattering news when an Alabama football player moves on to professional ball. The thing is, though, Upchurch was the Number 3 running back during his senior year with the 2009 National Champion Crimson Tide. One of the guys ahead of him, starter Mark Ingram, won the Heisman Trophy, the first in the storied football history of The University of Alabama. The other, Ingram's backup, a highly touted freshman out of Pensacola, Florida, had a special season of his own.

And Roy Upchurch loves to talk about that "other" back in Alabama's rotation. When asked about his freshman teammate, Upchurch perks up, and smiles. He hesitates. And then, Upchurch begins to speak.

"Trent Richardson," Upchurch said, before pausing. "Wow. Trent Richardson. Where do I begin?"

"He's an amazing player. And he's come a long, long way since he got here. Both as a player, and as a person."

Do tell. And Upchurch does.

"When Trent first got here back in the summer, he had a little cockiness about him. We running backs hang together. We go out to eat, and we talk. Trent had a kind of 'me' attitude when he came. But we talked to him about it, and he's a team guy, now."

(By "we," Upchurch meant he, Ingram and veteran Terry Grant, who elected to give up football this spring.)

**"Trent never goes down on the first hit. You've seen him. He's got speed, and he's got power. His blocking is coming along. He can catch the ball. He's a complete back. And he's only a freshman."**

Upchurch wasn't finished talking. Not by a long shot.

"Trent never goes down on the first hit. You've seen him. He's got speed, and he's got power. His blocking is coming along. He can catch the ball. He's a complete back. And he's only a freshman."

Richardson was a freshman when Upchurch discussed him early in the Tide's 2009 post-season. Now, Richardson is in spring practice for his sophomore year after being selected to the Southeastern Conference All-Freshman team. Richardson, likely a starter for any other team in the SEC and, for that matter, most teams in the nation, put up some respectable numbers his first year in Tuscaloosa. He carried the ball 145 times coming off the bench for Ingram, and netted 751 yards, a 5.2 average, and scored eight times. He caught 16 passes for another 126 yards (good for 7.9 yards per catch). He returned only one kick-off, but got 20 yards, giving him 897 all-purpose yards. Richardson didn't stop with just offense. On special teams, he went down on kick-offs to make six tackles, four of the solo variety.

The first time Richardson got to speak to the media, under the rules of the Saban administration set up for true freshmen, was after the Tide's SEC Championship Game win over the Florida Gators in Atlanta. Before speaking, he got some quick "coaching up" from a member of the Alabama Media Relations staff, who told him to remember to thank his offensive line, etc., for the game and year he was having.

Message received.

"I want to thank my offensive line," Richardson started off, just

as instructed. "They've done a great job all year opening the holes for us running backs."

But he had plenty more to say, to the delight of the writers and broadcasters on hand in the Georgia Dome locker room.

"One of the reasons I chose Alabama, coming out of high school, was I wanted to have a chance to play for a championship. In high school, I never even played in a playoff game. To do that, to play in both the SEC Championship Game and the BCS Championship Game, in my freshman year, is a dream come true."

His teammates have certainly noticed the outstanding job by the 5-foot-11, 220-pound dynamo. How could they not?

"Trent has done an excellent job for us this year," said receiver Julio Jones, whose downfield blocking helped Richardson break many a run in 2009. "He's grown up a lot since he got here. He runs really hard, and he's done a good job of picking up blitzes on his blocking."

Said Ingram: "Trent's unreal, but he runs like that all the time. He runs every play like it was his last. And he's grown up a good bit since he got here back in the summer." In Ingram, Richardson has a pretty good role model. The year before, Ingram had battled injuries that cost him some mid-season playing time. His advice to Richardson?

"That year from your freshman year to your sophomore year, I tell Trent that all the time, just how much improvement you're going to see when you play in the spring, how much easier it comes

to you," Ingram said recently. "I just think you grow so much as a football player from that first year to your second year."

To his credit, Richardson could tell early on that, when Ingram spoke, Richardson needed to listen.

"We bonded like so good," Richardson said. "We're always together, even Roy Upchurch and Terry Grant, but me and Mark, we stay together. We go out to eat like every Tuesday and every Thursday, we go get our haircuts, just everything, just like brothers. We feed off each other a lot," Richardson said. "We complement each other. We tell each other how it is out there. If he goes out there first and he's got a good job going, I ask him how it feels out there and he asks me how I feel out there. It's all going to go good. We've got to stay focused and stay humble. We just do what we do, man. Every week we go out there and just play hard. Next time we play for the national championship, I'm hoping to do the same thing."

"Every now and then, he'd get frustrated," Ingram said. "I took him under my wing when he got here because I didn't want him to go through what I went through last year." As a freshman, Ingram admitted there were times he thought he wasn't getting enough playing time. Obviously, he worked through that frustration.

Grant gave some words of wisdom to the young freshman, too. "He always told me to stay patient," Richardson said, "and look where I'm at now."

Departing senior offensive lineman Drew Davis could see early on that Richardson would be an impact player.





Trent Richardson broke four tackles on 52-yard run vs. Arkansas



"Trent's always been sort of a man," Davis said. "Trent's a really big back. He's really strong. I think he's grown more mentally just knowing what to expect from us as an offensive line, seeing the holes, got better vision. I think he's really developed and I think he's got some more developing he can do."

"I guess as far as bringing Trent in for Mark, I'm sure that helps Mark a lot to get his rest. And I know Trent is always raring to go."

There may not have been a better example of what Davis is talking about than an extraordinary run Richardson made against Arkansas. He broke no fewer than four tackles en route to a 52-yard touchdown run that opened the scoring in what would be a 35-7 Bama romp.

Richardson, like Jones the year before, is an example of a highly regarded high school prospect who got to campus and actually lived up to his top billing. He arrived in Tuscaloosa as one of the most highly sought after running back prospects in America. He was known for (and still is) his rare combination of size, speed, power and elusiveness. Richardson was a prep All-America at Escambia High School in Pensacola. Among those who dubbed him were Parade, Under Armour, USA Today, EA Sports, and Super Prep. A consensus five-star recruit, Scout.com rated Richardson as the nation's number two running back and 13th overall player.

There's more: Playing on Emmitt Smith Field, named for a player from his high school that many have compared him to, Richardson was the Florida Athletic Coaches Association 5A Player of the Year and a finalist for Florida's Mr. Football. His high school stats were incredible. He rushed for 2,090 yards on 225 carries (a 9.3 average), and scored 26 touchdowns as a senior in 2008 for Escambia, including a single-game record of 419 yards. His junior year was also quite productive, as he gained 1,490 on the ground with 15 touchdowns in just seven games due to an injury. The speedster has been timed at 10.5 in the 100 meters on the track. In addition, he was a state championship weightlifter.

Richardson is one of six brothers. His grandmother drove a city bus and his mother, Katrina, is a caregiver. He knows what it means to pay the price.

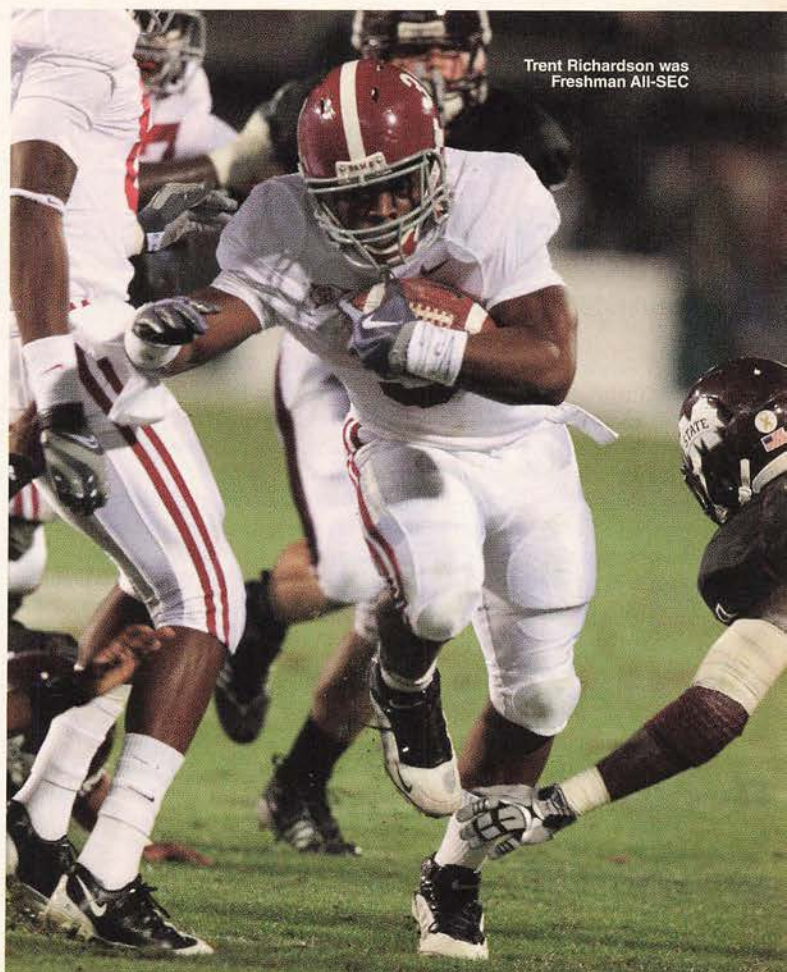
Trent is not the only athlete in his family, either. His brother, Terrell Richardson, plays defensive end at Louisiana-Lafayette. Richardson chose the Tide over Florida, LSU, Florida State, and Tennessee. The Gators recruited him hard up to National Signing Day, but Richardson stuck to his early commitment to Saban and Alabama, despite some fears surfacing among Tide faithful that Urban Meyer might be able to turn him toward Gainesville.

On that fateful December day in Atlanta when Richardson gave his first collegiate media interviews, one has to think Meyer was wishing pretty hard that he had been able to close that deal. On that day, Richardson's team won to advance to the national title game against Texas.

Richardson had a huge run in Pasadena, a 49-yard touchdown run against Texas in Alabama's 37-21 win for the BCS title.

Ingram ran for 116 yards and Richardson another 109, and Alabama gained 205 against Texas, the top-ranked rush defense in the country (which had been giving up 62.2 yards per game).

"I can't tell you what it means, as an offensive lineman, to have the Heisman Trophy winner and a freshman (Richardson) to run like they do," center William Vlachos said. "It's not like



Trent Richardson was Freshman All-SEC

Stuart McNair

"I can't tell you what it means, as an offensive lineman, to have the Heisman Trophy winner and a freshman (Richardson) to run like they do," center William Vlachos said. "It's not like a change of pace. They're very similar, very physical. Nobody in college football has two like that."

a change of pace. They're very similar, very physical. Nobody in college football has two like that."

And, to the disdain of Alabama's 2010 opponents, both are back to try and top their 2009 performances. "I think the combination of those two guys sharing that position has made our team better," Saban said.

As for sticking to his guns and his commitment, Richardson put it like this walking off the field at Rose Bowl Stadium: "This proves I made the right decision."



# Adding To The Legacy

## Notebooking the Crimson Tide

**A**labama became the first football team in Southeastern Conference history to win 14 games in a season when the 2009 Crimson Tide went undefeated and won the national championship. The Crimson Tide went 8-0 in SEC games and also won the SEC Championship game, thus defeating nine league opponents in the same season.

Alabama had become the first SEC school to defeat nine conference opponents in 1992 when the Crimson Tide went 13-0 and won the national championship. That made Bama the first SEC team to win 13 games in a season. Bama went 8-0 in regular season SEC play then defeated the ninth opponent, Florida, in the first SEC Championship Game.

Alabama has a long lists of firsts as the Crimson Tide has dominated the 76 years of league competition since the SEC was formed in 1933. Alabama won that first SEC championship and has now won 22 conference titles, far more than any other.

Alabama was also the first league team since the formation of the conference to win 10 games in a season, although Tulane shared that honor in 1934. Tennessee, however, was the first to win 11 games, accomplishing the feat in 1938, and former member Georgia Tech was the first to win 12, in 1952.

- The 2009 Crimson Tide football team was the second Bama national champion to be invited to the Washington to meet the President. Alabama's 1992 squad of Coach Gene Stallings was greeted by President Bill Clinton. On March 8 this year, the Tide was addressed by President Barack Obama in a ceremony in the East Room in the White House. Crimson Tide Coach Nick Saban had some private time with the President.

President Obama praised Alabama for its "winning attitude," citing the Crimson Tide's most famous coach, Paul Bryant. He also mentioned the achievements of Heisman Trophy winner Mark Ingram and Butkus Award honoree Rolando McClain and the leadership of captains McClain, Mike Johnson and Javier Arenas.

President Obama also praised Alabama's graduation rate, which is the second highest of any team in the top 25, and the Crimson Tide's 3,500 hours of community service.

"That's the kind of tone this team sets, both on and off the field," he said.

Arenas presented President Obama with a Number 1 Alabama jersey with his name on the back and Johnson gave him an autographed football and a helmet with the Number 13, representing Alabama's 13th national championship.

Two high profile team members did not attend because they were preparing for NFL workouts. McClain and nose tackle Terrence Cody did not make the trip.

- According to the Chattanooga News-Free Press, Tennessee football fans will have an opportunity to watch the Vols' two biggest rivals play when Alabama hosts Florida on October 2. The newspaper said the rematch of the past two SEC Championship Games has been selected for prime time telecast on CBS.

CBS televises only one SEC game in prime time. Mike Aresco, executive vice president of the network, told the newspaper Alabama vs. Florida has become the biggest game in the conference.

He also said that CBS would not televise the Alabama-Penn State game, Bama's second game of the season. He said that would likely



Stuart McNair

be another prime time game, telecast by ESPN. CBS is contracted to coverage of the U.S. Open tennis tournament when Penn State meets Bama at Bryant-Denny Stadium on September 11.

Alabama has made 10 national television appearances in each of the last two seasons. Only Notre Dame (also with 10 the last two years) has had as many nationally televised games.

- Alabama's A-Day Game was scheduled for 2 p.m. CDT at Bryant-Denny Stadium. There is no admission charge. The event was to be nationally telecast by ESPN. It would be the second consecutive year for the Crimson-White intrasquad game to be televised by ESPN.

Over the last three years, Alabama has totaled 254,388 fans at A-Day. UA set a college football record in the spring of 2007 as a capacity crowd of 92,138 watched head Coach Nick Saban's first A-Day at Bryant-Denny Stadium. Last year's attendance of 84,050 again led the SEC and an average of 84,796 have been on hand for the last three A-Day scrimmages at Alabama.

Other SEC teams having spring games on April 17 are Auburn, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, and Tennessee. April 10 games were scheduled by Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Vanderbilt. The first spring game was set by LSU on March 27. That's before Arkansas (March 30) and Kentucky (March 31) were even to begin spring football practice. Both Arkansas and Kentucky had spring games scheduled for April 24.

- There were a few surprises as Alabama started spring practice on March 12. (The second practice was not until March 22, following The University's spring break.)

Coach Saban announced that upcoming junior safety Robby Green would practice with the Tide this spring. Earlier it had been announced that Green had been indefinitely suspended for a violation of team rules.

Saban also announced that junior linebacker Dont'a Hightower would participate in contact work in the spring. Hightower suffered a severe knee injury in Alabama's game against Arkansas last fall and it had been expected his rehabilitation from surgery would prevent him from contact work until fall camp.

Senior center William Vlachos was not expected to practice in the spring because of off-season foot surgery. Senior wide receiver Earl Alexander was out with a stress fracture.

Saban said two fifth year players who have earned their degrees



will not continue in football. They are tailback Terry Grant, who has been injured the past two years, and wide receiver Travis Sikes.

Saban went to pains to explain that a depth chart on the first day of practice has no meaning, that it is for "organizational purposes" to allow players to get as many repetitions as possible. He said there would be times when a first team player might be working with third team players in order to conduct practice.

The Tide coach also noted that some players may get work at new positions in the spring as Alabama attempts to find "the best 22 and the best 22 behind them," but as always it is emphasized that changes are not necessarily permanent. Also, there may be other position moves during spring work. He added that there are a lot of jobs available because Alabama "lost a lot of good players. We need to identify guys who can help our team."

He said that redshirt freshman Kendall Kelly, who came to Bama as a wide receiver, is working at defensive back; junior Brandon Gibson, another wide receiver, will work both in the secondary and continue working at wide receiver; Jalston Fowler, who entered The University in January as a running back, is working with linebackers; and sophomore Undra Billingsley, who started at Bama as a defensive lineman, then moved to tight end last year, is back on the defensive line.

• It's never a surprise when the NCAA gets it wrong regarding Alabama. Last year, college football attendance was down about 1 per cent, and the NCAA suggested the economic downturn was a factor. Alabama averaged 92,012, for games at Bryant-Denny Stadium, which was down slightly from the 92,138 in 2008. But the Crimson Tide didn't have a falloff in attendance for any reason other than there were fewer seats available.

The seats were lost because of construction as Alabama is in the process of increasing capacity of Bryant-Denny Stadium to something in the neighborhood of 101,000.

Alabama ranked eighth in the nation in football attendance last year.

The SEC drew the most fans of any conference for the 12th consecutive year, with average home attendance of 76,288. That was down 556 fans per game from the SEC record set in 2008.

The top 10 in home attendance last year among major college football teams: Michigan (108,933), 2. Penn State (107,008), 3. Ohio State (105,261), 4. Texas (101,175), 5. Tennessee (99,220), 6. Georgia (92,746), 7. LSU (92,849), 8. Alabama (92,012), 9. Florida (90,635), 10. Nebraska (85,888).

• Alabama's new assistant football coach, Jeremy Pruitt, had been listed merely as "defensive assistant" prior to the start of spring practice. His background had been in the secondary, but he replaced inside linebackers coach James Willis, who went to Texas Tech as defensive coordinator.

At the beginning of spring practice, The University announced that Pruitt will be coaching in the secondary. A source said that Defensive Coordinator Kirby Smart, who has coached safeties while Saban coaches cornerbacks, would move to the linebackers coaching slot.

Pruitt's position as Bama's director of player development, was filled by Kevin Sherrer, like Pruitt a former Crimson Tide walk-on who returns to The Capstone from Hoover High School. In his role at Bama he will focus on the off-the-field activities of Alabama's football student-athletes, including areas of academics, athletics, community outreach, and their personal lives. Sherrer will also assist with the strength and conditioning program and the peer intervention group.

Sherrer played tight end at Alabama from 1993-95 and earned a letter in 1995. After being graduated in 1996, he spent two seasons at Tuscaloosa County High School as an assistant coach, which included a state title in 1997. Afterwards, he was a Bama graduate assistant on defense for three years, earning his master's in higher education. He spent four years at Spain Park and five at Hoover, the last two as defensive coordinator.

• Gentry Estes, Alabama beat writer for the Mobile Register, had an interesting note. He found the early betting odds for the 2010 national football championship listing the Crimson Tide as the favorite to win. Alabama was listed as the 7-2 favorite, followed by Ohio State at 13-2.

It probably pleases Alabama fans to see the Crimson Tide picked as the favorite to win the national championship. But before getting too giddy, remember that Bama was not the favorite of these same oddsmakers for the 2009 crown. That honor would have gone to Florida—which like Alabama this season was attempting to repeat as national champion.

The oddsmakers are those guys who make the spread on college football and basketball games, all pro games, and things like which team will win the coin toss at the Super Bowl. They aren't any more knowledgeable about sports than the serious fan, but they are much more knowledgeable about separating those fans who have a sentimental interest in games from their cash.

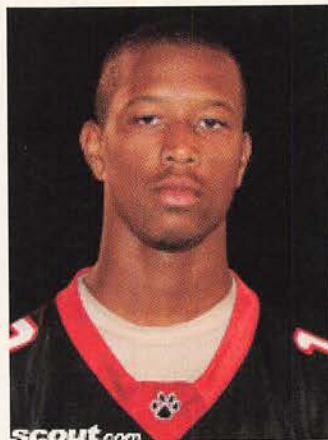
## 2010 ALABAMA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	SERIES RECORD	LAST GAME
September 4	San Jose State	Tuscaloosa	First Meeting	N/A
September 11	Penn State	Tuscaloosa	UA leads 8-5-0	1990, PSU 9, UA 0
September 18	Duke	Durham, N.C.	UA leads 2-1-0	2006, UA 30, Duke 14
September 25	Arkansas	Fayetteville	UA leads 13-7-0	2009, UA 35, Ark 7
October 2	Florida	Tuscaloosa	UA leads 22-14-0	2009, UA 32, UF 13
October 9	South Carolina	Columbia	UA leads 11-3-0	2009, UA 20, SC 6
October 16	Ole Miss	Tuscaloosa	UA leads 46-9-2	2009, UA 22, UM 3
October 23	Tennessee	Knoxville	UA leads 47-38-7	2009, UA 12, UT 10
October 30	Open			
November 6	LSU	Baton Rouge	UA leads 45-23-5	2009, UA 24, LSU 15
November 13	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	UA leads 74-17-3	2009, UA 31, MSU 3
November 20	Georgia State	Tuscaloosa	First Meeting	N/A
November 26	Auburn	Tuscaloosa	UA leads 40-33-1	2009, UA 26, AU 21
December 4	SEC Championship	Atlanta	UA 3 Wins, 4 Losses	UA 32, Florida 13
January 10, 2111	BCS Championship	Phoenix	UA 1 Win, 0 Loss	UA 37, Texas 21



# Prep Prospects

Tide listed among favorites coast-to-coast



Christian LeMay



Cyrus Kouandjio

Photos: Scout

The University of Alabama football team, coming off the 2009 National Championship, continues at a higher level of recruiting for elite recruits across the country. The Tide has finished in the top five the last three recruiting classes, and the 2011 class has the potential as the best yet. Alabama is listed among the favorites for prospects from coast-to-coast.

It is a long time until the first Wednesday in February 2011, when the next signing class comes on board. Over the ensuing months, Scout.com will be evaluating and re-evaluating the nation's top prospects. And so will Alabama's football coaching staff. But already some upcoming seniors are regarded as elite prospects, and many are singing the praises of the Crimson Tide.

Here's a look at some of the nation's top upcoming prospects who are being linked to Crimson Tide football:

Christian LeMay is a 6-3, 187-pound quarterback at Butler High School in Matthews, North Carolina. He has been clocked at 4.64 seconds in the 40-yard dash. Scout rates him five star and number two in the nation. He is considering Alabama, Clemson, Florida, Florida State, Georgia, Miami, Mississippi State, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Virginia Tech.

LeMay led his team to a 15-0 season in 2009, ending with the Class 4-AA North Carolina High School Athletic Association title. LeMay threw for 189 yards and three touchdowns and was the game's MVP. He threw for 3,196 yards, 44 touchdowns, and only two interceptions for the season.

Of his final choices, LeMay said he likes "the system, the coaching staff, the people around the staff like the players, how they develop their players, and how they relate to their players," said LeMay. "My coach, I want him to be someone I look back five years from now, and I can talk to him and feel like he's one of my best friends."

Cyrus Kouandjio, offensive tackle, 6-7, 291, Hyattsville, Md. (Dematha Catholic) is Scout.com's overall number one offensive lineman. He watched his older brother, Arie, sign with Alabama in the 2010 class. Cyrus has more than 30 scholarship offers from across the country with Alabama appearing to have an early advantage for his signature. He plans to take all five official visits

before making a decision. Kouandjio visited Tuscaloosa the same weekend his brother was on his official visit.

"With my brother going there they are going to have something no other school has--family," said Cyrus. "That being said, I love Alabama. I love their facilities. Everything is new age and upgraded. The people down there are great. I love them. It's a great environment. What I like most about them is the coaching staff. Coach (Joe) Pendry is a very good coach. He is a great offensive line coach. Coach Sal (Sunseri) is my man. I love that guy. He knows how to treat a visitor. He showed me a good time when I went on the visit with Arie."

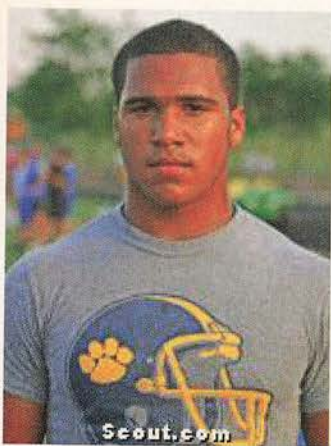
Alabama has a history of producing outstanding linebackers, including the most recent Butkus Award winner in Rolando McClain. The Tide's defense emphasizes linebackers and includes coaches with NFL experience. That adds up to an attractive package for someone like Trey DePriest, outside linebacker, 6-2, 230, Springfield, Ohio, a Scout.com five-star and the number two outside linebacker in the country. DePriest has scholarship offers from the nation's top football schools, including Alabama, LSU, Michigan, North Carolina, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oklahoma and Virginia Tech. He visited Tuscaloosa for Junior Day.

"Trey was very impressed with what he saw at Alabama," said Springfield Assistant Coach John Cupps. "All the things he'll need are within a short walk from one another. We got there on Friday and had a chance to look at a few things. Trey got to meet a few of the players while also getting to know Coach Sunseri and other members of the staff while also having a chance to see all the things the program has to offer. We then spent most of Sunday looking at things on-and-off campus so he'd have a feel for what is there."

Christian Westerman, offensive tackle, 6-5, 295, Chandler, Arizona (Hamilton), is a Scout.com five-star and the number two offensive tackle in the nation. He has an offer from Alabama and close ties to the area. Westerman has an uncle who lives in Tuscaloosa and other family members who live in Birmingham. He has numerous scholarship offers including Arizona State, Auburn, Cal, Florida, LSU, Oklahoma, Texas and Southern Cal.

"Nick Saban was very nice and very humble about the





Trey DePriest



Christian Westerman



Isaiah Crowell



James Vaughters

Photos: Scout

program," said Westerman. "He said I was a great player and athlete and a dominant offensive tackle. I am honored at the offer from Alabama, the current number one program in the country."

Seven of the top 10 running backs in the country have Alabama among their list of favorites. One who has mentioned Alabama a favorite is Isaiah Crowell, 6-0, 210, 4.43, Columbus, Georgia (Carver), Scout.com five-star and number four running back overall. Florida State also is very high on his list. Mark Ingram winning the Heisman Trophy and Alabama proving it will use more than one running back in its system has top runners interested in the national champions.

"I like Alabama because I'm real comfortable with the coaches there and like the players too," said Crowell. "I've got a good relationship with them. I love how they run the ball. They really showcase the back. I also like Coach Nick Saban."

James Vaughters, 6-2, 232, Tucker, Georgia, Scout.com five-star and No. 2 middle linebacker in the country, has trimmed his favorites to Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Georgia Tech, North Carolina, Ohio State, Southern Cal, Stanford, and Texas.

"Every one of the colleges I am considering are strong academically, have a strong track record of developing players for the NFL, and have an enthusiastic fan base," said Vaughters. "Alabama has a great staff, great facilities, and Coach Saban will have them competing for championships every year. Based on what I saw, they will continue to get better, and continue to put their best players in the NFL."

Alabama has no trouble crossing the border into Tennessee. Alabama has built a strong presence in the Volunteer State since head coach Nick Saban's arrival including such players as Dont'a Hightower, Barrett Jones and Chris Jordan. Jabriel Washington, 5-11, 165, 4.4, Jackson, Tenn. (Trinity Christian Academy), Scout.com four-star cornerback, has Alabama at the top of his list. He is ranked as the number two player in the state and could play on either side of the ball.

"Coach Saban is all about business," said Washington. "They want to not only make me a better football player, but a better person. They want me to graduate. They aren't just worried about what happens on the football field."

The Alabama coaching staff added a couple of defensive linemen in the 2010 class with junior college signee Brandon Lewis and Brandon Ivory from East High School in Memphis. One elite defensive tackle the Tide has offered is Scout.com National 100 member Gabe Wright, 6-2, 265, Columbus, Georgia (Carver). The Peach State player has scholarship offers from across the country with Alabama near the top of the list. One of his good friends, DeQuan Menzie, signed with the Tide in February. Wright will announce his decision at one the post-season high school all-star games in January.

"Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, and Florida State are my top four now in no order. All of those four schools are even, and I am interested in USC, Oklahoma State, and some other schools too, but those are my top four right now," Wright said.

"I love the tradition (at Alabama). I went there last year for the Arkansas game. I heard Bear Bryant talk on the highlights, and I fell in love. I wanted to put on a jersey and go play right there. It would be great to hear it every week."

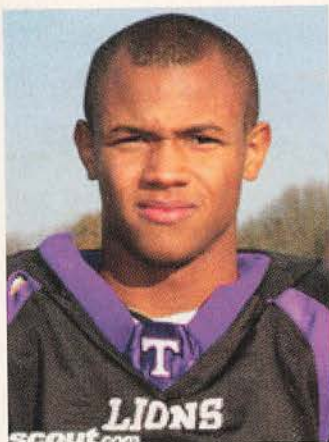
Brey Cook, 6-7, 298, Springdale, Arkansas (Har-Ber), Scout.com four-star and number 11 overall offensive tackle in the country, visited Alabama in late February. He has numerous scholarship offers including Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, Florida State, Miami, Oklahoma and Southern Cal. He does not list any early favorites.

"Alabama is a great school," said Cook. "I like the town a lot. Tuscaloosa is a great city, and Alabama is a great university. I really like it. They have a great history, and Coach Saban is a great guy."

Alabama did not sign any players from the Magnolia State in the class of 2010, but the Tide coaching staff has its sights on several elite prospects including the top player in Mississippi, Nickolas Brassell, 6-2, 175, Batesville (South Panola). The Scout.com four-star wide receiver holds scholarship offers from Alabama, Auburn, LSU, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Tennessee and Southern Cal. Brassell had 63 receptions as a junior for 1,272 yards and 16 touchdowns. He attended Junior Day in Tuscaloosa in February.

"They told me they were going to be running short at receiver in the next couple of years," said Brassell. "I just wanted to look around at their facilities; their stadium was huge. That was my first

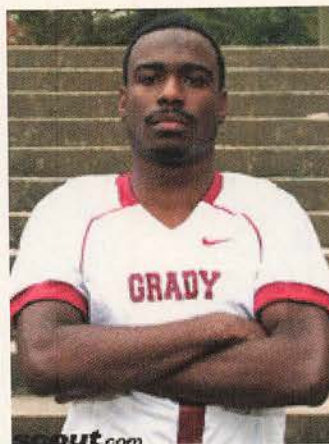




Jabriel Washington



Gabe Wright



Damian Swann



Shannon Brown

Photos: Scout

time I got to see their football stadium and everything else for that matter. They have a lot of young talent. I was looking at all of the people they have coming back, and they are going to be on top for the next few years."

The top upcoming prospect in the state of Alabama is Erique "A" Florence, 6-2, 185, 4.5, from Valley. The Scout.com National 100 recruit and number three cornerback in the country, Florence could play cornerback or safety at the next level. He had more than 140 tackles during the 2009 season. Teams avoided his side of the field last season, but he had 10 interceptions as a sophomore. Florence has received offers from Alabama, Auburn, Georgia, Georgia Tech, LSU and Stanford. His college decision could come down to a battle between the two in-state SEC schools.

"I love Alabama's campus," said Florence. "They have turned the program around and are winning. Everybody buys into what Nick Saban is saying. You can't help but be successful when you do that."

Damian Swann, 6-0, 175, 4.5, Atlanta, Ga. (Grady), Scout.com four-star and number eight cornerback in the country, has Alabama as a slight leader over Georgia. He has scholarship offers from both schools and others including Florida, Georgia Tech, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Ohio State, Tennessee, Southern Cal and Virginia Tech. Swann could play on either side of the ball, but will likely find a home in the defensive secondary in college. He finished his junior season with 60 tackles and six interceptions with one returned for a touchdown. Swann also had 10 touchdowns on offense.

"They've got some of the best defensive coaches in football with Coach Nick Saban and (defensive coordinator) Kirby Smart," said Swann. "I think Coach Saban is the best defensive backs coach in college football. He has NFL experience and has won a couple championships already. I also like how he's straightforward and means what he says. He keeps it real and knows the game. That's what I'm looking for. I want a great coach who is about defense and has a lot to offer me."

Alabama received a big commitment from one of the top prospects in the Peach State with Shannon Brown. Brown is a 6-2,

237-pound middle linebacker from Cook County High School in Adel, Georgia. He became the third commitment for the Crimson Tide in the 2011 class joining Marvin Shinn, Scout.com four-star wide receiver from Vigor High School in Prichard, and Brent Calloway, four-star outside linebacker from Russellville High School. Brown chose Alabama over scholarship offers from Georgia, Clemson, Ole Miss, Auburn, Tennessee and Texas Tech. He finished his junior season with 122 tackles.

"I think academics was the biggest factor in my decision," said Brown. "I like how they want you to leave with a degree, provide tutoring, and stay on you to do well in the classroom."

Here is a look at players who are ranked number one in the country at their position by Scout.com and have Alabama as one of their schools of interest.

Braxton Miller, Scout.com five-star quarterback from Huber Heights-Wayne, Ohio; Kasen Williams, five-star wide receiver from Issaquah-Skyline, Washington; Jay Rome, five-star tight end from Valdosta, Georgia; Tim Jernigan, five-star defensive tackle, from Lake City-Columbia, Florida; Jadeveon Clowney, five-star defensive end from Rock Hill-South Pointe, South Carolina; and James Wilder, five-star outside linebacker from Tampa-Plant, Florida.

Other high profile recruits Alabama has offered scholarships from outside the Southeast region include:

Malcolm Brown, Scout.com five-star running back from Cibola-Steele, Texas; Rodney Coe, five-star running back from Edwardsville, Illinois; Ladarius Brown, four-star safety from Waxahachie, Texas; Austin Seferian-Jenkins, four-star tight end from Gig Harbor, Washington; Jalen Grimble, four-star defensive end from Las Vegas-Bishop Gorman, Nevada; Savon Huggins, four-star running back from Jersey City-St. Peters Prep, New Jersey; Aaron Green, four-star running back from San Antonio-Madison, Texas; DeAnthony Arnett, four-star wide receiver from Saginaw, Michigan; Quinta Funderburk, four-star wide receiver from Chesapeake-Oscar F. Smith, Virginia; Devon Blackmon, wide receiver from Fontana-Summit, California; and Michael Bennett, defensive tackle from Centerville, Ohio. ■



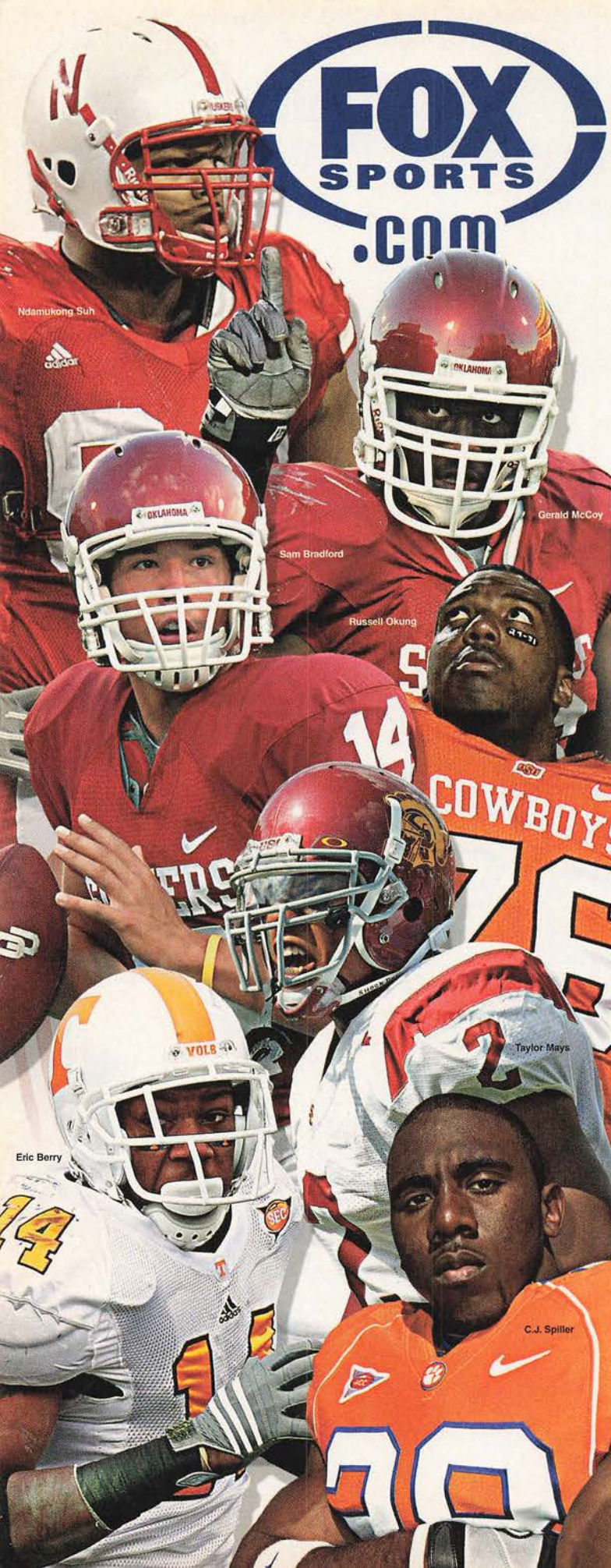
# HOT LIST 2011 Alabama Football Prospects

2011 Alabama Football Prospects as determined by Andrew Bone of 'BAMA Magazine and Scout Media

- DeAnthony Arnett, 6-0, 170, 4.5, WR, Saginaw, Mich.  
 Darion Arrington, 6-2, 200, S, Wiggins, Miss. (Stone)  
 Lonnie Ballentine, 6-3, 200, 4.4, CB, Memphis, Tenn. (Southwind)  
 Mike Bellamy, 5-10, 175, 4.31, RB, Punta Gorda, Fla. (Charlotte)  
 Michael Bennett, 6-3, 270, DT, Centerville, Ohio  
 Devon Blackmon, 6-1, 180, 4.41, WR, Fontana, Calif. (Summit)  
 Devin Bowman, 6-0, 175, RB, Rossville, Ga. (Ridgeland)  
 Nickolas Brassell, 6-2, 175, WR, Batesville, Miss. (South Panola)  
 Quan Bray, 5-10.5, 175, RB, Hogansville, Ga. (Calloway)  
 Teddy Bridgewater, 6-3, 180, QB, Miami, Fla. (Northwestern)  
 LaDarius Brown, 6-1, 175, S, Waxahachie, Texas  
 Malcolm Brown, 6-1, 200, 4.5, RB, Cibola, Texas (Steele)  
 \*Shannon Brown, 6-2, 237, MLB, Adel, Ga. (Cook County)  
 \*Brent Calloway, 6-3, 223, 4.5, OLB, Russellville, Ala.  
 Brandon Clear, 6-7, 265, TE, Memphis, Tenn. (Central)  
 Ha'Sean Clinton-Dix, 6-2, 190, S, Orlando, Fla. (Dr. Phillips)  
 Jadeveon Clowney, 6-5, 235, DE, Rock Hill, S.C. (South Pointe)  
 Rodney Coe, 6-3, 240, RB, Edwardsville, Ill.  
 \*Darryl Collins, 6-0, 190, 4.5, WR, Gadsden, Ala. (Gadsden City)  
 Christian Conley, 6-2, 185, 4.42, WR, Dallas, Ga. (North Paulding)  
 Brey Cook, 6-7, 298, OT, Springdale, Ark. (Har-Ber)  
 Isaiah Crowell, 6-0, 210, 4.43, RB, Columbus, Ga. (Carver)  
 Watts Dantzler, 6-7, 310, 5.3, OT, Dalton, Ga.  
 Trey DePriest, 6-2, 230, OLB, Springfield, Ohio  
 \*Quinton Dial, 6-5, 310, DT, Scooba, Miss. (East Mississippi Community College)  
 Xzavier Dickson, 6-4, 236, DE, Griffin, Ga.  
 Reese Dismukes, 6-3, 270, C, Spanish Fort, Ala.  
 Eric Dixon, 6-0, 170, CB, Prichard, Ala. (Vigor)  
 Ray Drew, 6-4.5, 243, 4.74, DE, Thomasville, Ga. (Thomas County Central)  
 Phillip Dukes, 6-2, 275, DT, Manning, S.C.  
 Malcolm Faciane, 6-5, 215, TE, Picayune, Miss (Memorial)  
 LaMichael Fanning, 6-7, 270, DT, Auburn, Ala.  
 Erique Florience, 6-3, 185, 4.5, CB, Valley, Ala.  
 Hakeem Flowers, 6-3, 180, 4.45, WR, Greenville, S.C. (Wade Hampton)  
 Quinta Funderburk, 6-3, 200, 4.5, WR, Chesapeake, Va. (Oscar F. Smith)  
 Artraves Gibson, 6-1, 210, 4.5, RB, Memphis, Tenn. (Mitchell)  
 Jabari Gorman, 5-10.5, 175, CB, Miami, Fla. (Monsignor Pace)  
 Lonnie Gosha, 6-3, 245, DT, Lake Butler, Fla. (Union County)  
 Aaron Green, 5-10, 185, 4.40, RB, San Antonio, Texas (Madison)  
 Jalen Grimble, 6-3.5, 255, 4.8, DE, Las Vegas, NV. (Bishop Gorman)  
 Keymiya Harrell, 6-5, 235, DE, Plantersville, Ala. (Dallas County)  
 Alonzo Harris, 6-1, 207, 4.6, RB, Gadsden, Ala. (Gadsden City)  
 Bobby Hart, 6-5, 270, OT, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (St. Thomas Aquinas)  
 Savon Huggins, 5-11, 183, 4.55, RB, Jersey City, N.J. (St. Peters Prep)  
 Damarcus James, 5-9, 216, RB, Demopolis, Ala.  
 Collin Jarbo, 6-4.5, 230, TE, Gadsden, Ala. (Gaston)  
 Tim Jernigan, 6-2, 275, DT, Lake City, Fla. (Columbia)  
 A.J. Johnson, 6-3, 227, 4.7, OLB, Gainesville, Ga.  
 Derek King, 5-11, 180, 4.4, CB, Brentwood, Tenn. (Brentwood Academy)  
 Cyrus Kouandjio, 6-7, 290, OT, Hyattsville, Md. (Dematha Catholic)  
 Chris Landrum, 6-2, 215, OLB, Sweet Water, Ala.  
 Christian LeMay, 6-3, 187, 4.64, QB, Matthews, N.C. (Butler)  
 Aaron Lynch, 6-6, 245, 4.78, DE, Cape Coral, Fla. (Island Coast)  
 Wayne Lyons, 6-1, 190, 4.5, S, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Dillard)  
 Curt Maggit, 6-3, 205, DE, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. (Dwyer)  
 Braxton Miller, 6-3.5, 199, 4.47, QB, Huber Heights, Ohio (Wayne)  
 Malcolm Mitchell, 6-1, 180, 4.40, WR, Valdosta, Ga.  
 Joe Morrow, 6-4, 200, WR, Ocean Springs, Miss.  
 Jabrian Niles, 6-3, 250, 4.7, DE, Mobile, Ala. (Davidson)  
 Jeoffrey Pagan, 6-3, 260, DE, Asheville, N.C.  
 D.J. Pettway, 6-2.5, 255, DT, Pensacola, Fla. (Pensacola Catholic)  
 Jordan Prestwood, 6-6, 265, 4.9, OT, Plant City, Fla.  
 Jermauria Rasco, 6-4, 251, DE, Shreveport, La. (Evangel Christian)  
 Antonio Richardson, 6-6, 285, OT, Nashville, Tenn. (Ensworth)  
 Jay Rome, 6-5, 237, TE, Valdosta, Ga.  
 Jonathan Rose, 6-1.5, 170, CB, Leeds, Ala.  
 Austin Seferian-Jenkins, 6-7, 245, TE, Gig Harbor, Wash.  
 Brandon Shell, 6-7, 310, OT, Goose Creek, S.C.  
 \*Marvin Shinn, 6-4, 185, 4.5, WR, Prichard, Ala. (Vigor)  
 Tobias Singleton, 6-2, 175, WR, Madison, Miss. (Madison Central)  
 Terrence Smith, 6-3, 212, 4.68, DE, Decatur, Ga. (Southwest Dekalb)  
 Vinnie Sunseri, 6-0, 205, OLB, Tuscaloosa, Ala. (Northridge)  
 Damian Swann, 6-0, 175, 4.5, S, Atlanta, Ga. (Grady)  
 Bradley Sylve, 5-10.5, 175, 4.40, Port Sulphur, La. (South Plaquemines)  
 Robert Terrell, 6-1, 245, MLB, Russellville, Ala.  
 Robensen Therezie, 5-10, 185, 4.55, S, Miami, Fla. (Jackson)  
 Lateek Townsend, 6-2, 213, OLB, Bennettsville, S.C., (Marlboro County)  
 C.J. Uzomah, 6-5, 235, 4.75, QB, Suwanee, Ga. (North Gwinnett)  
 James Vaughters, 6-2, 232, 4.55, MLB, Tucker, Ga.  
 Jabriel Washington, 5-11, 165, 4.45, CB, Jackson, Tenn. (Trinity Christian Academy)  
 Christian Westerman, 6-5, 295, 5.1, OT, Chandler, Ariz. (Hamilton)  
 James Wilder, 6-2.5, 217, DE Tampa, Fla. (Plant)  
 Kasen Williams, 6-2, 195, 4.6, WR, Issaquah, Wa. (Skyline)  
 Thomas Williams, 6-4, 283, OT, Prichard, Ala. (Vigor)  
 \*Danny Woodson Jr., 6-2, 205, 4.5, WR, Mobile, Ala. (LeFlore)  
 Gabe Wright, 6-2, 265, DT, Columbus, Ga. (Carver)

\*Committed to Alabama





by Peter Schrager *FoxSports.com*

# ON THE CLOCK...

**T**his truly is the best time of the year. March Madness, MLB spring training, and both the NBA and NHL playoff races are beginning to heat up.

Most important, though, we are all counting down to the 2010 NFL Draft. Since our previous mock draft, several prospects improved their stock with impressive NFL Draft Scouting Combine performances in Indianapolis, while others weren't as fortunate. Pro Days started March 4.

Here's the 2010 Schrager Mock Draft, Version 3.0:

## 1. ST. LOUIS RAMS

*Ndamukong Suh, DT, Nebraska*

With new ownership in St. Louis, there will be a focused effort on bringing the Rams back to respectability. Using the first pick on a franchise QB like Sam Bradford or Jimmy Clausen may be the impulse move in kick-starting excitement and fan interest back into the club, but rebuilding from the inside out is the wiser of the two strategies. St. Louis grabbed OT Jason Smith with the second pick overall last year and will take Suh, college football's most celebrated interior linemen of the past two decades, with the top pick in '10. Mentioned in the same breath as every great three-technique DT from John Randle to Tommie Harris, Suh's a clog against the run and a pass-rushing demon. Don't get me wrong; St. Louis still needs a franchise QB. I just don't see the Rams sinking \$40 million guaranteed into Bradford or Clausen. A few million into Michael Vick or Jason Campbell? Well, now we're talking.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Ndamukong Suh, DT, Nebraska

**Suh's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 1 to St. Louis

## 2. DETROIT LIONS

*Gerald McCoy, DT, Oklahoma*

Ranked last in the league against the pass and 25th against the rush, the Lions will look to continue to rebuild their ailing defense. Alas, there are 8-10 other spots that need to be upgraded, as well. Some pundits—NFL Network's Mike Mayock, for one—actually have McCoy ranked higher than Suh on their draft boards. The side-by-side comparisons of the two Big 12 stars will be a running subplot right up until draft weekend. Suh got the early nod in my book at the Combine, bench pressing 225 pounds 32 times to McCoy's 23 and impressing in interviews. In the end, I think St. Louis goes with the 'Husker at 1, and Detroit takes the Sooner at 2. Both become studs at the next level. Jim Schwartz can turn McCoy into what Albert Haynesworth was for him at DT in Tennessee.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Gerald McCoy, DT, Oklahoma

**McCoy's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 2 to Detroit

## 3. TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

*Russell Okung, OT, Oklahoma State*

Don't read too much into the Bucs applying the highest possible franchise tender on left tackle Donald Penn over the weekend. More than anything, that was a financial move and there's a strong chance that Penn, as advised by his agent, is frustrated by the tender and opts to hold out during offseason activities. Penn's a solid tackle and could be very nice trade bait, but he isn't the "build-a-franchise-around-guy" that Okung is. In Okung, quarterback Josh Freeman would get a fellow Big 12 superstar to watch his blindside for years to come. The big fella impressed in Indy with the second-most bench press reps for his position and will solidify his top-five status on his Pro Day in March.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Eric Berry, S, Tennessee

**Okung's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 5 to Kansas City

## 4. WASHINGTON REDSKINS

*Sam Bradford, QB, Oklahoma*

While speaking with reporters at the Combine, Redskins coach Mike Shanahan would not commit to QB Jason Campbell as his starter for next season. With Campbell on the roster or not, it's time for a new "face of the franchise" in D.C. Insert Bradford. Though he opted not to throw at the Combine, Bradford measured well and impressed team personnel with his poise, confidence and football smarts in interviews. In Malcolm Kelly, Devin Thomas and Fred Davis, the former Heisman winner would have a plethora of young offensive weapons to work with. In later rounds, Washington has to address its woeful offensive line. Campbell withstood a beating last year.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Jimmy Clausen, QB, Notre Dame

**Bradford's Mock Draft 1.0 Placement:** No. 9 to Buffalo



# MOCK 3.0

## 5. KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

*Bryan Bulaga, OT, Iowa*

The Chiefs can go a variety of ways at No. 5: Tennessee All-Everything safety Eric Berry, USC punisher Taylor Mays, receiver Dez Bryant, another LSU defensive lineman (kidding, kidding). But I see Pioli, Haley, Weis and Patriots Midwest giving Matt Cassel some protection on the O-line. Drafting a franchise tackle like Bulaga would allow Branden Albert to move back to his natural position of guard, protect K.C.'s investment in Cassel and give Jamaal "Jazz" Charles some legitimate holes to run through.

Though some critics think he'll be better suited at right tackle and you don't customarily take right tackles fifth overall, Bulaga's only 20 years old and can play right away. The Chiefs can't draft an O-lineman based solely on potential. They need help—a guy like Bulaga—who can step in immediately and contribute.

Another reason to like Bulaga-to-Kansas City? GM Scott Pioli and Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz are close friends dating back to their time in the mid-'90s with Cleveland. Ferentz, an offensive line guru, coached the All-Big 10 selection at Iowa. With three of the top 53 picks and eight overall, look for K.C. to address other needs in later rounds.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Russell Okung, OT, Oklahoma State

**Bulaga's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 13 to San Francisco

## 6. SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

*Anthony Davis, OT, Rutgers*

Seattle's one of the most intriguing teams in this draft. With two picks in the top 14, the Seahawks have several holes to fill and will begin doing so very early on Day 1. The offensive line struggled immensely last season. With Walter Jones likely retiring and Sean Locklear simply unable to stay healthy, look for coach Pete Carroll, new GM John Schneider and the slew of new assistants in Seattle to start up front with a future franchise left tackle.

A physical specimen with tons of upside, Anthony Davis could be the guy. Criticized by scouts for being inconsistent at times, the 6-5, 323-pound masher dominated some of the Big East's best pass rushers, including Pittsburgh's Greg Romeus and South Florida's George Selvie. When up to the task, Davis is a game-changer. Look for Carroll to get the most of him.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Derrick Morgan, DE, Georgia Tech

**Davis's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 8 to Oakland

## 7. CLEVELAND BROWNS

*Eric Berry, S/CB, Tennessee*

The highest a safety's ever been drafted was second overall. The player? Eric Turner of UCLA in 1991. The team? The Browns. Cleveland grabs another safety in the Top 10 with Tennessee's do-everything center fielder. The junior showed corner speed at the Combine and hits like a truck. His ball-hawking cover skills have been compared to Ed Reed's. As for Berry's confidence? Here's what he had to say at the Combine: "I feel like I'm the best player in the draft because I bring a lot to the table. I can do pretty much anything the coaches ask me to. I can play free or strong, or nickel corner. You don't have to bring in the nickel package for me because I can cover the slot. I had 14 interceptions in three years, three [returns for] TDs and almost broke the NCAA record for return yards after interceptions. I was only seven yards away from that." Mangini and Holmgren will cherish the confidence, humble him in training camp, and start him right away.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Joe Haden

**Berry's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 3 to Tampa Bay

## 8. OAKLAND RAIDERS

*Derrick Morgan, DE, Georgia Tech*

Al Davis loves his freakish athletes and in Morgan, he'd surely get one. Though there are definite needs at offensive tackle, the Raiders won't reach to fill a need. Richard Seymour's back in Oakland, but there's a lack of young pass rushing ends on the roster. At 6-4, 270 pounds with 4.7 40 speed, Morgan's the top pass-rushing defensive end on my board. Expected to play second fiddle to Jason Pierre-Paul at the Combine, Morgan wowed scouts and personnel. Al Davis goes with the All-ACC defender.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Anthony Davis, OT, Oakland

**Morgan's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 6 to Seattle

## 9. BUFFALO BILLS

*Jimmy Clausen, QB, Notre Dame*

Where to begin in Buffalo? Former Chargers personnel guru and new Buffalo GM Buddy Nix and coach Chan Gailey have more than a few holes to fill. Try everywhere. The offensive line is a disaster, wide receiver is a need, Buffalo's pass rush was all but nonexistent in 2009 and they're moving from a 4-3 to a 3-4 in a DT-rich draft. Mark my words: Between now and draft day, Terrence Cody, ideally built to play the middle of that 3-4 defensive line, will be rumored to go to Buffalo here. In the end, though, I think Buffalo addresses the quarterback position. If Clausen has a strong Pro Day in March and is still around at nine, I'd be surprised if Bills brass didn't scoop him up.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Sam Bradford, QB, Oklahoma

**Clausen's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 4 to Washington

## 10. JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

*Jason Pierre-Paul, DE, South Florida*

Jacksonville's only got two picks in the first three rounds. You better believe they're going to make the most of their selections. The pass rush — despite featuring 2008 first round pick Derrick Harvey and 2008 second-round pick Quentin Groves — struggled mightily in '09 as Jacksonville had a league-low 14 sacks.

In Jason Pierre-Paul, the Jags would get one of the draft's most intriguing prospects. With just one year of D-1 college under his belt, Pierre-Paul made a major splash on the scene in just seven games at South Florida. A 272-pound defensive end who clocked a 4.64 forty (and in a YouTube video captured at his bowl game did 13 straight back flips), Pierre-Paul could be the pass-rush demon the team so sorely needs. As for all the Tim Tebow-to-Jacksonville talk? Stop it. This isn't the minor leagues. No team is spending a top-10 pick (and top-10 cash) on a guy that may sell a few more jerseys.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Rolando McClain, LB, Alabama

**Pierre-Paul's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 31 to Tennessee

## 11. DENVER BRONCOS

*Dez Bryant, WR/KR, Oklahoma State*

Wide receiver is an area of concern in Denver. Josh McDaniels likes to use multiple receiver sets and with another top-flight weapon in the offensive attack, the Broncos O could really be elevated next season. Several pundits are down on Dez Bryant after he opted out of the Combine citing a hamstring injury. All he has to do is blow them out of the water at his Pro Day in Stillwater and they'll be right back on board.

The consensus top wideout in the draft, Bryant has the unfortunate "buyer beware" label after the Deion Sanders incident that got him suspended during his junior season. In a rather weak wideout draft, Bryant will be just fine.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Brandon Graham, DE/LB, Michigan

**Bryant's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 21 to Cincinnati

## 12. MIAMI DOLPHINS

*Dan Williams, DT, Tennessee*

As much as Bill Parcells loves NT Jason Ferguson, it is time to look for a suitable long-term replacement for the 35-year-old veteran. Backup NT Paul Soliai is fine enough, but he's likely not that player. The Dolphins slipped from 10th to 18th in defense in '09 and premier run-stopping defensive tackles do not just come and go. Insert Tennessee beast Dan Williams. Williams follows in the great tradition of the Tennessee DTs before him (Albert Haynesworth, Justin Harrell, Aubrey Franklin) and could be that anchor of the Miami D-line for years to come.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Dan Williams, DT, Tennessee

**Williams' Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 12 to Miami

## 13. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

*Joe Haden, CB, Florida*

Déjà vu all over again? With eyes set on Michael Oher last year, the 49ers passed on the Ole Miss star when Michael Crabtree unexpectedly slipped to them at No. 10 overall. The same could happen with Haden in 2010. The once-considered top-10 lock had an underwhelming Combine performance, leading folks to wonder whether it was Haden's cover skills or Florida's defensive front that made the junior so dominant in Gainesville. Quibble all you want over the how's and why's, Haden's an absolute steal at 13th overall. The Niners have a potential future Pro Bowl CB in Dashon Goldson, but are awfully old across the board beyond that. Dre Bly, Walt Harris and Nate Clements are hardly spring chickens. Insert Haden and San Fran has two electrifying corners starting on opening day, 40 times be damned.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Bryan Bulaga, OT, Iowa

**Haden's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 7 to Cleveland

## 14. SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

*C.J. Spiller, RB/KR, Clemson*

With question marks at running back and Jeremy Bates and Alex Gibbs' new zone blocking schemes coming to the Pacific Northwest, I can't see Seattle letting Spiller slip past them if he's still on the board at 14. Spiller can be an every-down back, a return-game difference-maker and a solid receiver out of the backfield. Of his 50-plus career touchdowns at Clemson, 21 of them came on plays of 50 yards or more. Carroll and Schneider have assembled an All Star team of offensive minds for the Seattle coaching staff. Getting them top-flight talents like Davis and Spiller would go a long way.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** C.J. Spiller, RB/KR, Clemson

**Spiller's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 14 to Seattle



## 15. NEW YORK GIANTS

*Rolando McClain, ILB, Alabama*

The Giants defense stunk down the stretch in '09, getting blown off the field by Carolina and Minnesota in Weeks 16 and 17. There was no more glaring hole than middle linebacker. With Antonio Pierce gone, picking up a capable MLB either via free agency or the draft will be a top offseason concern for Big Blue. If McClain slips all the way to 15, as he does here, they might schedule a parade down Broadway the following morning. Whether the Giants opt to stick to the standard 4-3 scheme they ran last year or move to the Tampa 2 under new D-coordinator Perry Fewell, a top-flight MLB of McClain's caliber will get things in the right direction immediately. Forget who won the Heisman, McClain was the top player, team leader and heart and soul of the 2009 BCS Champion Crimson Tide. If he slips to 15, and he might after curiously opting out of Combine drills citing a hamstring injury the day he was supposed to run, the Giants will scoop him up. Instantly, he'll be the franchise's most productive rookie linebacker since Lawrence Taylor.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Taylor Mays, S, USC

**McClain's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 10 to Jacksonville

## 16. TENNESSEE TITANS

*Carlos Dunlap, DE, Florida*

Chuck Cecil's defense struggled out of the gates in '09, but really came along down the stretch. Finishing the season with eight wins in their final 10 games, the Titans defense gelled from November on. Still, the pass rush struggled. Dunlap could make quite the new addition to the Tennessee D.

Like Bryant, Dunlap's been given the dreaded "Buyer Beware" label. Just days before the SEC Championship Game, he was arrested for a DUI. There's also the rap that he took plays off. That said, if the 2009 BCS Championship Game MVP slips to Tennessee, look for Jeff Fisher and Co. to pounce. At 6-6, 277 pounds and capable of running a 4.71 40, he's too freakish an athlete and too premier a talent to let slip by. Compared throughout his college career to former Gator and Titans star Jevon Kearse, Dunlap would be the perfect fit in Nashville.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Brian Price, DT, UCLA

**Dunlap's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 17 to San Francisco

## 17. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

*Trent Williams, OT, Oklahoma*

Mike Singletary wasn't bluffing or hiding any cards. With no hesitation, he told anyone who asked him in Indy that Alex Smith was his opening-day starting quarterback. 2010 will mark the first time the 2005 top overall pick will play for the same offensive coordinator in consecutive seasons. With Joe Staley solid at one tackle spot, look for the Niners to shore up the other side with the reliable Williams. Capable of playing either the left or right side of the line, Williams had a strong Combine performance and would make for a solid addition to the San Francisco offense. Haden and Williams in Round 1? That'd be an A+ day for the Niners.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Carlos Dunlap, DE, Florida

**Williams' Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 23 to Green Bay

## 18. PITTSBURGH STEELERS

*Mike Iupati, OG, Idaho*

I'm very high on Iupati and think he makes almost too much sense to Pittsburgh at No. 18 overall. The last time a guard was taken in the top 20, it was Virginia's Branden Albert going to Kansas City at 17th in 2008. Iupati's in the same league, with some saying he's the best guard prospect in the draft since Steve Hutchinson in 2001.

Coming off a dominant senior season at Idaho, he opened eyes while paving giant paths for Idaho running backs in the Roady's Humanitarian Bowl vs. Bowling Green. Iupati was one of the more polished players in Mobile for the Senior Bowl and excelled at the Combine. It appears as though Darnell Stapleton won't be back in Pittsburgh in 2010. Everyone's wondering whether Iupati can play the tackle spot or not. With the Steelers, he wouldn't be forced to. He'd play the guard position like All-Decade performer Alan Faneca did for so many years in the black and gold.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Mike Iupati, OG, Idaho

**Iupati's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 18 to Pittsburgh

## 19. ATLANTA FALCONS

*Earl Thomas, S/CB, Texas*

With 2007 first-round pick Jamaal Anderson likely headed to tackle, the Falcons could be looking to scoop up a top-flight pass rusher with the 19th overall pick. But if Pierre-Paul, Morgan and Dunlap are off the board, they'd be wise to look to shore up their defensive backfield instead. In Thomas, the do-everything safety/corner who some actually have ranked higher than Eric Berry on their boards, the Falcons would get an explosive speed demon with both coverage and run-stopping abilities at No. 19.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Perrish Cox, CB, Oklahoma State

**Thomas' Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 20 to Houston

## 20. HOUSTON TEXANS

*Kyle Wilson, CB/KR, Boise State*

"From the first game I played in (2004) when I lined up against Keyshawn Johnson to the last game in (2009) when I lined up against Randy Moss, the ride has been great." These were the words of the recently departed Dunta Robinson recently. After a six-year run as Houston's top cornerback, Robinson will be playing elsewhere in 2010. Robinson's departure makes cornerback an immediate concern in Houston. After Haden and Thomas, it's still in doubt who the third cornerback off the board will be. This may change after Pro Days, but right now I like Boise's Wilson. The 5-10 corner did not run at the Combine, but will be doing so at his Pro Day in Boise on March 26.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Earl Thomas, CB/S, Texas

**Wilson's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 29 to New York Jets

## 21. CINCINNATI BENGALS

*Taylor Mays, S, USC*

Another former Trojan to the Bengals? You better believe it. Following in the footsteps of Carson Palmer, Keith Rivers, Froste Rucker and Rey Mauluga, Cincy could address its needs at safety via Mays with the 21st pick. With Roy Williams' future in Cincinnati an unknown and Chris Crocker battling injuries last year, Mays would be a tremendous addition to the Cincinnati defensive backfield. A three-time All-American and a four-year starter at USC, Mays punishes receivers across the middle and has top-flight pro safety speed. His critics say that he struggles in coverage. With his skills and experience, I have no doubt he'll figure it out. And like his college teammate Mauluga, he'll devote his rookie season to proving those critics wrong.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Dez Bryant, WR, Oklahoma State

**Mays' Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 15 to New York Giants

## 22. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

*Brandon Graham, DE/LB, Michigan*

The Patriots have four of the first 53 picks in the 2010 draft. After a rather non-existent pass rush in 2010, look for New England to give Jerod Mayo some help on the outside in a 3-4 OLB prospect like Graham. The Michigan star, whose stock has been rising up draft boards after a dominant week of Senior Bowl practices and an MVP performance in the game itself, looked good in Indianapolis before tweaking his hamstring while running the 40. Tully Banta-Cain should not be the Patriots' sack leader. Ever.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Bruce Campbell, OT, Maryland

**Graham's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 11 to Denver

## 23. GREEN BAY PACKERS

*Bruce Campbell, OT, Maryland*

As this year's Combine "workout warrior," there are a few red flags worth waving around Campbell. First off, he's only started 17 collegiate games. Second, he never once was voted to an All-ACC team. Third, he's still got loads to work on in technique. That said, if he's sitting there at No. 23, Ted Thompson's going to have to pounce. The 6-6 freakish physical specimen ran an eye-popping 4.78 40 and bench pressed 225 pounds 34 times. With issues at both tackle positions heading into 2010, Campbell is well worth the gamble with the 23rd pick. Of course, he may very well be gone at No. 8. Everyone knows Al Davis has a thing for those workout warriors.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Trent Williams, OT, Oklahoma

**Campbell's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 22 to New England

## 24. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

*Maurkice Pouncey, C/G, Florida*

Though the Eagles may have more pressing needs at free safety, their interior offensive line revealed warts and weaknesses down the stretch in 2009. When C Jamaal Jackson tore his ACL late in the season, guard Nick Cole struggled mightily once moved over to fill in. Stacy Andrews was a major disappointment last year, as well. Pouncey, an All-American with experience at both the guard and center spots in college, would provide immediate depth and long-term stability inside.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Everson Griffen, USC, DE/OLB

**Pouncey's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 50 to Kansas City

## 25. BALTIMORE RAVENS

*Golden Tate, WR, Notre Dame*

The addition of Donte Stallworth doesn't suddenly fix the thinnest and historically weakest part of the Ravens depth chart. If Tate, who solidified himself as the second best wideout in the 2010 Draft, slips all the way to No. 25, Ozzie Newsome and Co. will have a hard time passing on him. The junior out of Notre Dame had a remarkable weekend at the Combine, running a faster-than-expected 4.42 40-yard dash and posting a broad jump of 10 feet. A bit undersized at 5-10, Tate makes up for it with outstanding hands and open-field vision. In two years in Baltimore, Joe Flacco hasn't had a highly touted rookie wideout to work with. He gets a battery mate in Tate.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Patrick Robinson, CB, Florida State

**Tate's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 36 to Kansas City



## 26. ARIZONA CARDINALS

*Sergio Kindle, DE/OLB, Texas*

Karlos Dansby could be gone in 'Zona. If that's the case, look for the Cardinals to make a pass-rushing outside linebacker a priority. At 6-3, 255 pounds, Kindle has the size and speed to fill that void. Kindle, who ran a 4.71 40, is one of a handful of hybrid DE/OLBs in this draft who could go in the first round. The Cardinals would be fortunate to see him still on the board at No. 26.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Sergio Kindle, DE/OLB, Texas

**Kindle's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 26 to Arizona

## 27. DALLAS COWBOYS

*Charles Brown, OT, USC*

A former tight end who made the move to left tackle in college, the 6-5, 290-pound Brown is one of the more athletic offensive linemen in the 2010 Draft. Though OT Doug Free played well for the Cowboys down the stretch, depth across the O-line is a major concern. My sixth-rated offensive tackle, the man who protected Mark Sanchez's blind side should sneak into the first round.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Vladimir Ducasse, OT/OG, Massachusetts

**Brown's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 37 to Washington

## 28. SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

*Terrence Cody, DT, Alabama*

Cody going in the first round? You better believe it. I read a mock draft which had the immovable object going in the fourth round earlier this week. It's stuff like that which makes the Internet an unsafe place. Everyone's talking running back for San Diego, but in one of the more running back-rich drafts in recent memory, San Diego has the luxury of waiting until the latter rounds before addressing the position.

A run-clogging defensive tackle in the 3-4? Not so easy. Cody lost 16 pounds between the Senior Bowl and the Combine and could be in even better shape by his Pro Day. Like his former college teammate Andre Smith, Mount Cody's draft "stock" will come full circle and he'll be a first-rounder again by April 22.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Ryan Mathews, RB, Fresno State

**Cody's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 60 to San Diego

## 29. NEW YORK JETS

*Devin McCourty, CB, Rutgers*

The 6-0 McCourty came to Indy without some of the hype that greeted fellow corners Joe Haden, Patrick Robinson, Kyle Wilson and Perrish Cox. He performed better than each of them. No distractions, no baggage, and no attitude—McCourty and Darrelle Revis would make for a scary 1-2 CB duo in New York. In Indy, McCourty ran a 4.48 in the 40, which tied for fifth among corners. He was also sixth in the broad jump and second in the three-cone drill. Following an outstanding junior season, an eye-opening combine and some terrific film—he's worked himself into my first round.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Kyle Wilson, CB, Boise State

**McCourty's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 56 to Green Bay

## 30. MINNESOTA VIKINGS

*Jared Odrick, DE/DT, Penn State*

At 37, Pat Williams isn't getting any younger and Jimmy Kennedy isn't the answer at DT in Minnesota. Odrick was the 2009 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and had a strong Senior Bowl week in Mobile. A great football mind with strong pursuit skills, Odrick ran a 4.98 40 in Indianapolis. At 6-5, 304 pounds, he can play the inside in a 4-3 at the next level.

**Mock Draft 2.0 Pick:** Jared Odrick, DE/DT, Penn State

**Odrick's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 30 to Minnesota

## 31. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

*Sean Weatherspoon, LB, Missouri*

Off the field, Weatherspoon was one of the bigger personalities at both the Senior Bowl and the Combine, often providing the best quote for reporters. On the field, he solidified his status as a first-round caliber linebacker. Weatherspoon starred in Mobile and then showed up in Indianapolis and ripped off a 4.57 40 and benched 34 reps at 225 pounds. Likely capable of playing either inside or outside, I can see him manning the middle in Larry Coyer's defensive front seven.

**Mock Draft 2.0:** Jason Pierre-Paul, DE, South Florida

**Weatherspoon's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 38 to Cleveland

## 32. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

*Everson Griffen, OLB/DE, USC*

Griffen, one of the few players in the draft who played both the DE and OLB position in college, had 8 sacks, 9.5 tackles for a loss and 45 tackles in his one year as a starter in 2009. One of the most athletic players in this class—and that's saying something—the 6-3, 273-pound pass rusher officially ran a 4.66 40 in Indianapolis. The Saints are still in Super Bowl celebratory mode, but there are moves that need to be made. This one would be your classic "Best Player on the Board" one.

**Mock Draft 2.0:** Ricky Sapp, OLB/DE, Clemson

**Griffen's Mock Draft 2.0 Placement:** No. 24 to Philadelphia

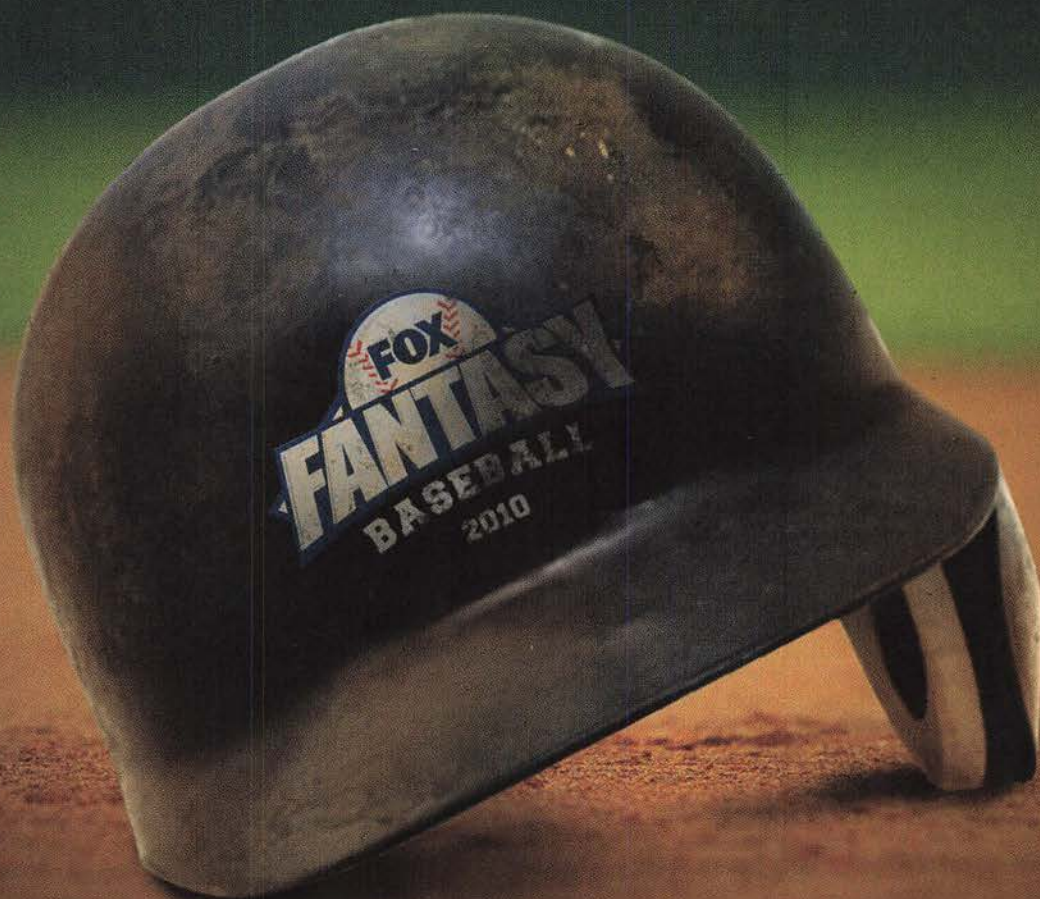
# NFL DRAFT MOCK 3.0

## Second Round

33. St. Louis Rams—Jermaine Gresham, TE, Oklahoma
34. Detroit Lions—Jonathan Dwyer, RB, Georgia Tech
35. Tampa Bay Buccaneers—Brian Price, DT, UCLA
36. Kansas City Chiefs—Daryl Washington, LB, TCU
37. Washington Redskins—Vladimir Ducasse, OT, Massachusetts
38. Cleveland Browns—Jahvid Best, RB, California
39. Oakland Raiders—Jared Veldheer, OT, Hillsdale
40. Seattle Seahawks—Corey Wooton, DE/DT, Northwestern
41. Buffalo Bills—Selvish Capers, OT, West Virginia
42. Tampa Bay Buccaneers—Patrick Robinson, CB, Florida State
43. Miami Dolphins—Brandon LaFell, WR, LSU
44. New England Patriots—Ryan Mathews, RB, Fresno State
45. Denver Broncos—Tim Tebow, QB, Florida
46. New York Giants—LaMarr Houston, DT, Texas
47. Carolina Panthers—Ricky Sapp, DE/OLB, Clemson
48. New England Patriots—Damian Williams, WR, USC
49. San Francisco 49ers—Dexter McCluster, RB/WR, Ole Miss
50. Houston Texans—Anthony Dixon, RB, Mississippi State
51. Kansas City Chiefs—Rob Gronkowski, TE, Arizona
52. Pittsburgh Steelers—Kareem Jackson, CB, Alabama
53. New England Patriots—Aaron Hernandez, TE, Florida
54. Cincinnati Bengals—Arrelious Benn, WR, Illinois
55. Philadelphia Eagles—Nate Allen, S, South Florida
56. Green Bay Packers—Perrish Cox, CB/KR, Oklahoma State
57. Baltimore Ravens—Jerome Murphy, CB, South Florida
58. Arizona Cardinals—Colt McCoy, QB, Texas
59. Dallas Cowboys—Demaryius Thomas, WR, Georgia Tech
60. San Diego Chargers—Joe McKnight, RB, USC
61. New York Jets—Jerry Hughes, DE/OLB, TCU
62. Minnesota Vikings—Dominique Franks, CB, Oklahoma
63. Indianapolis Colts—Jason Worilds, DE, Virginia Tech
64. New Orleans Saints—Toby Gerhart, RB, Stanford
65. St. Louis Rams—Dan LeFevour, QB, Central Michigan
66. Detroit Lions—Roger Saffold, OT/OG, Indiana
67. Tampa Bay Buccaneers—Jordan Shipley, WR, Texas
68. Kansas City Chiefs—Jon Asamoah, G, Illinois
69. Oakland Raiders—Geno Atkins, DT, Georgia
70. Philadelphia Eagles—Alex Carrington, DE, Arkansas State
71. Cleveland Browns—Eric Decker, WR, Minnesota
72. Buffalo Bills—Mardy Gilyard, WR, Cincinnati
73. Miami Dolphins—Brandon Spikes, LB, Florida
74. Jacksonville Jaguars—Navarro Bowman, LB, Penn State
75. Chicago Bears—Willie Young, DE, N.C. State
76. New York Giants—Morgan Burnett, S, Georgia Tech
77. Tennessee Titans—Mike Johnson, OG, Alabama
78. Carolina Panthers—Jacoby Ford, WR, Clemson
79. San Francisco 49ers—Syd'Quan Thompson, CB, Cal
80. Denver Broncos—Reshad Jones, S, Georgia
81. Houston Texans—Ciron Black, OT, LSU
82. Pittsburgh Steelers—Amari Spievy, CB, Iowa
83. Atlanta Falcons—Chris Cook, CB, Virginia
84. Cincinnati Bengals—Dennis Pitta, TE, BYU
85. Oakland Raiders—Taylor Price, WR, Ohio
86. Green Bay Packers—Mitch Petrus, OG, Arkansas
87. Philadelphia Eagles—LeGarrette Blount, RB, Oregon
88. Baltimore Ravens—Matt Tennant, C, Boston College
89. Arizona Cardinals—Dorin Dickerson, TE, Pittsburgh
90. Dallas Cowboys—Chad Jones, S, LSU
91. San Diego Chargers—Kyle Calloway, OT, Iowa
92. Cleveland Browns—Ed Dickson, TE, Oregon
93. Minnesota Vikings—Montario Hardesty, RB, Tennessee
94. Indianapolis Colts—Marshall Newhouse, OG, TCU
95. New Orleans Saints—Major Wright, S, Florida

## Third Round





**FOX FANTASY BASEBALL 2010**  
**FOXSPORTS.COM/FANTASY**

©2010. The FOX, FOX SPORTS, and FOXSPORTS.COM names and logos are either registered trademarks or trademarks of TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX and its related entities in the United States and/or other countries. \*Microsoft, MSN and MSN logo are registered trademarks of the Microsoft group of companies.



**FOXSPORTS.COM** on **msn**



# Basketball Search

Who, if any, will Grant add?

**T**he "Kick 'em when they're down" crowd wants to talk about the ones that got away. True, some very fine basketball players from the state of Alabama are not playing for the Crimson Tide, and are playing on high profile teams that made a certain NCAA Tournament to which Bama was not invited.

Would Alabama have been a better team with the likes of DeMarcus Cousins and Eric Bledsoe, who are at Kentucky; Stanley Robinson at Connecticut; Louis Dale at Cornell; and Ronald Nored at Butler? Of course. But it serves nothing to worry about it.

Instead, Alabama Coach Anthony Grant has been working on his first full year of Crimson Tide recruiting. Bama signed two guards in the early period. The late period for basketball signees is April 14-May 19, and the Tide may add one or more. The current emphasis appears to be on big men.

Scout.com Director of Basketball Recruiting is considered the most knowledgeable in his field. Telep said, "Anthony Grant is the quiet assassin on the recruiting trail. As the former right hand man for one of college basketball's elite coaches, he learned from the best. At Alabama, the rebuilding process has begun. His presence, charisma and talent will in time afford Alabama the best chance to land elite recruit to run with in the SEC."

Grant keeps close counsel on Crimson Tide recruiting, speaking only in very general terms. He said, "From a recruiting standpoint, it's not just talent; it's the character and the makeup of kids. I've been around the game a long time and I know a lot of the best players that we had weren't necessarily the most talented guys; they were the guys that understood how to compete, how to fight and the toughness that goes into being a part of something bigger than yourself."

Alabama's early signees were point guard Trevor Releford, 5-11, 170, of Bishop Miege High School in Shawnee Mission, Kansas, and wing guard Charles Hankerson, 6-5, 210, of Coral Reef High in Miami. Releford recently led his team to the state championship with an MVP performance that included 24 points and seven assists in a 71-47 title game romp. Hankerson averaged over 30 points per game his senior season. Both are Scout.com four-star prospects.

The rumor mill has two players at the top of the Alabama wish list. They are Ricardo Ratliffe, a junior college star in Florida, and Luke Cothron, a native of Huntsville who is playing prep basketball in North Carolina. There could be others on the Alabama recruiting board, including Josh Langford of Huntsville. Jon Horford, the brother of former SEC stars Tito (LSU) and Al (Florida), made an unofficial visit to Alabama, but expects to stay in his home-state of Michigan for college basketball. Majok Majok, a 6-8, 230-pound power forward playing at the Hermon School in Northfield, Massachusetts, has been linked with Alabama and Arkansas of the



SEC, but is expected to play for Harvard.

Grant is familiar with Ratliffe, a 6-9, 240-pound power forward, from his days as a star at Kecoughtan High School in Hampton, Virginia, when Grant was head coach at VCU.

Ivan C. Thomas, who was Ratliffe's AAU coach, said, "He's a great player and a great kid. His body is chiseled like Ben Wallace but he has the touch of a Rasheed Wallace. He can stroke the ball from the outside and he has another level - he can put the ball on the floor. He's very much like Ben Wallace in terms of rebounding and defending. He can really shoot the ball, play with his back to the basket and shoot outside."

Ratliffe has played the past two years for Coach Tim Ryan at Central Florida Community College in Ocala. He is a Scout.com four-star prospect. He led the nation in scoring as a freshman (26.5 points per game). As a soph he raised his

scoring average to 27.4. He has made 63 per cent of his field goals, including 26-59 three point shots (44 per cent) this year. He ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation in rebounding, 11.3 per game. He was first team JC All-America as a freshman and was considered sure to repeat when the team is announced later this year.

Ryan said the schools involved with Ratliffe are Ryan Alabama, Arkansas, Cincinnati, Clemson, Missouri and Florida.

Cothron played this year at Flora MacDonald Academy in North Carolina for Coach Derrick Bond. Cothron had committed to North Carolina State, but when the Wolfpack began recruiting C.J. Leslie for the same position, Cothron decommitted. He is considering a number of schools and many think Bama is the team to beat.

Cothron, 6-9, 220, is ranked as the 13<sup>th</sup> best power forward in the nation and a four-star by Scout.com.

Alabama Assistant Coach Antoine Pettway is the lead recruiter for the star at Flora Macdonald Academy in Red Springs, N. C. "That's my man right there," Cothron said, raving about the popular former Crimson Tide point guard. Cothron favors the up-tempo style employed by Alabama.

In addition to Alabama and NC State, Cothron has taken unofficial visits to Kansas, Texas A&M, and Duke, among others.

Bond said Cothron "reminds me a lot of Antwan Jamison. He's a more refined version of him I think and very similar. He has quick twitch muscles and can rebound really well."

Josh Langford, a 6-6, 200-pound small forward at Huntsville Lee, is reported by many to be leaning to Alabama, but there has been no commitment. He is a three-star by Scout.com and was previously committed to Louisville.

He led his team to the state 5A title as he averaged 25 points and 13 rebounds. He is also considering Clemson, Georgia, West Virginia, and others.



# Where Are They Now?

Ray Odums has showcased his talents

**C**onsidering the sports maxim, "Luck follows speed," it's no wonder Ray Odums attracted coaches of all sorts during his high school career. He was called "Flash" for a reason. Ray Odums' gift of fleetness enabled him to flourish in football, basketball, and track during his Birmingham prep career.

Quarterbacking a high-powered offense produced college football suitors but "I wasn't really crazy about the contact," Odums said. His time of 9.8 in the 100-yard dash and 21.8 in the 220 attracted scholarship offers in track. The multi-talented star received 75-100 recruitment letters from schools across the country vying for his signature on a letter-of-intent. Although excelling in three sports, his heart was set on one.

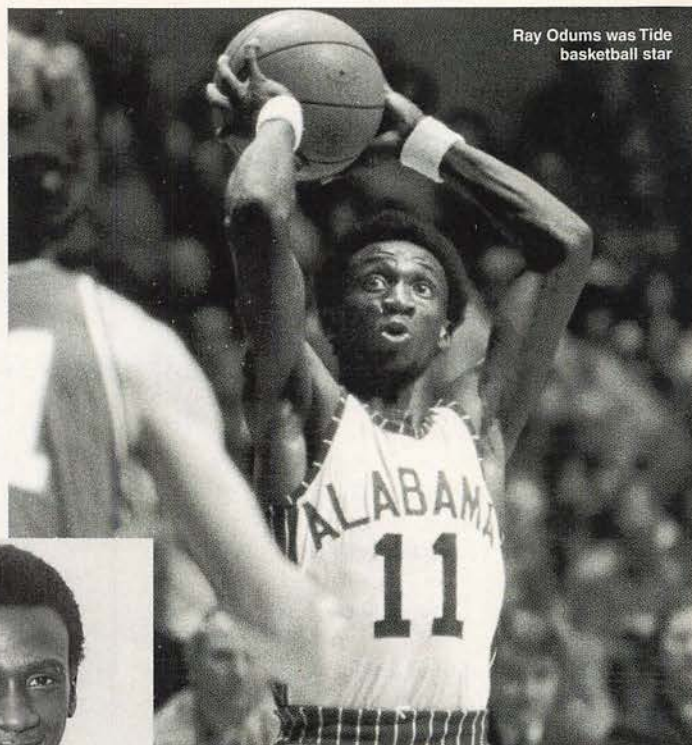
Basketball recruiters flocked to Carver High School during his junior year, especially after an Alabama state high school landmark occurrence. "We played in the first integrated state tournament back in 1969," Odums said. "We played in the championship game and although we lost, I was the MVP. Coach (C.M.) Newton, Coach (Wimp) Sanderson and Coach (John) Bostick started calling me and coming to my house and my games," he remembered. "They made me feel that they really wanted me to be part of the program. I thought it was a real good university education- and athletic-wise. They have a real good tradition. I was really excited about the facilities. I fell in love with Alabama when I was down there and they treated me so nice. Everybody else was almost second in line from the start because I was leaning towards them the whole time."

Odums, 6-2 and 180 pounds, entered The Capstone in the fall of 1970 when freshman were not eligible for varsity competition. Honored as an All-SEC Freshman team shooting guard, he successfully transitioned to the point as a sophomore becoming the first Alabama player to lead the league in assists with a 5.5 game average in 1972. He achieved varying levels of the All-SEC team the next three seasons for his versatile play. His Alabama career numbers for assists, although limited due to NCAA participation restrictions during his era, still find him number six all-time with 399. For his career he averaged 13.6 points per game and he was Bama's assist leader all three seasons.

The 1974 co-captain and three-time letterman was bestowed with the Guy Lee Turner Memorial Defensive Award as a sophomore in 1972. "I played tough D," he said. "Once I hit the floor I was all business."



University of Alabama



Ray Odums was Tide basketball star

University of Alabama

A 1973 second place conference finish secured an inaugural berth to the 16-team National Invitation Tournament held in Madison Square Garden. In those days, only 32 teams went to the NCAA Tournament and a team had to win its conference to be invited.

Alabama contended not only with the snow accompanying the week long stay in New York City but an unusual condition beneath the hardwood surface of basketball's Mecca. "We were playing on top of the ice which made a difference," Odums said. "It took a lot longer to warm up." Chilly conditions inside and dead spots on the portable floor did not prevent the warm blooded Southerners from representing their school and region with distinction. The university's first time post season pioneers survived two thrilling close encounters, defeating home-town favorite Manhattan and the powerful Big Ten representative Minnesota. They were ousted in a heart wrenching semi-final loss to the eventual NIT champions Virginia Tech, 74-73. Prior to a practice session legendary basketball icon Bill Russell engaged the Alabama team in conversation wishing them good fortune.

Odums and his teammates had an extra incentive to capture the SEC title his last year since Tuscaloosa was selected as the site of the 1974 Mideast regional. Ironically if a host school did not qualify for the NCAA tournament, they were prohibited from accepting an NIT bid. His senior campaign culminated with the Crimson Tide and Vanderbilt being named Co-SEC Champions with identical 15-3 conference marks. The Commodores, owning the tie-breaking advantage, received the NCAA's automatic invite, consequently eliminating Alabama from any post-season participation despite a superlative 22-4 overall record. Another program accomplishment achieved in 1974 was the first ever season series sweep of the conference's marquee team, the Kentucky Wildcats.

His life's dream of competing in professional sports pivoted with a dramatic twist in the spring of his senior season. Odums



initially contemplated traveling overseas to play basketball but shunned the meager financial opportunity tendered to guards. The Dallas Cowboys were famous for scouring the country in search of basketball players capable of transitioning to the gridiron. An on-campus workout yielded an invitation to tryout as a free agent but he declined the non-guaranteed venture. The following winter session found Odums back on campus in pursuit of his degree when Bud Riley, brother of former Alabama baseball and basketball coach Hayden Riley, offered bonus money. Bud was a longtime successful coach in the Canadian Football League. He enticed Odums to play for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Odums' defensive skill set mirroring quick point guards effectively transferred to playing cornerback against the speedy, elusive wide receivers.

The Saskatchewan Roughriders signed him after his mid-season release from Winnipeg. Highlighting a one and a half year stint with the Roughriders was a contest against his former team with a special guest in attendance. Knocking down the last second Hail Mary pass in the end zone to preserve the victory provided an emotional thrill for his mother Rozell visiting from Birmingham. He completed the 1976 season with a Grey Cup appearance, the league's equivalent to the Super Bowl, against Ottawa.

Odums odyssey through the CFL continued when unbeknownst to him, Saskatchewan attempted to slide the career right cornerback through waivers in the spring of 1977.

Back in Birmingham reading his hometown newspaper, Odums was astonished to discover Calgary head coach/general manager Jack Gotta, recently the WFL's Birmingham Americans head coach, had claimed his services. Calgary was the beneficiary of the two-year apprenticeship as Odums matured into a starting cornerback recording 24 interceptions during the eight-year stint with theStampeders. He was honored as a three-time All-CFL member from 1980-82 along with the dual recognition of being voted the best defensive back of the year and selection to the All-Star game.

In the mid 1990's Odums returned to the Province of Alberta's largest city for a weekend celebration. He was named a member of the Stampeders "Dream" team. "They put us in antique cars and rode us around the field. They always treated me very nice in Calgary from the time I arrived. The fans always accepted me."

Playing out his option in 1984, Odums was searching for a team after ten years in the CFL. A former Calgary defensive line coach was a link to the USFL's Memphis Showboats where another familiar face was a welcomed surprise. One day at the Bryant Hall cafeteria while a student, a conversation ensued with Alabama Assistant Football Coach Bill "Brother" Oliver foreshadowing a pigskin career path for the reluctant basketball player. The defensive genius was encouraging use of Odums remaining one year of athletic eligibility to join the Crimson Tide football team after completing his collegiate basketball career. Ironically, his last year of professional football would be under the tutelage of the man who a decade ago suggested the switch. Oliver was the defensive back coach for the Memphis Showboats.

NFL Hall of Famer Reggie White and former UA quarterback Walter Lewis were among his teammates in Memphis. A testimony to his ability was communicated in a Sports Illustrated story discussing the semifinal playoff game, his last time lacing up the cleats. University of Michigan standout wide receiver Anthony Carter, a member of the Oakland Invaders, complimented Odums' coverage skills. The USFL's demise led to his retirement from football.

Odums returned to Alabama settling in his hometown of Birmingham with his high school sweetheart, JoAnn. Married for 35 years, they raised eight children - Triness, Alicia, Demetrius,

Monique, Adrienne, Tiffany, Moriah and Joshua. Watching movies and listening to jazz are two of his favorite pastimes.

He has been employed with the City of Birmingham for the last 16 years, using his University degree in recreation. He is a director for the North Birmingham Park Recreation Center. Children in age from 8-16 participate. Flag football is offered during the fall, basketball in the winter and the spring session wraps up with tennis and baseball. Soccer is available during both the fall and spring. "We play competitively against the other 17 recreation centers all across the city," Odums said. "In basketball we have a city championship and play in a state tournament too." A unique activity sponsored by the Park and Recreation Department is the fishing rodeo.

Early on he paid his dues by organizing and coaching teams, officiating and recruiting youngsters. "We would make a flyer, take it to the school and get permission from the principal to meet with the kids in the gym," he said. "We try to attract the kids not playing on the school teams. We want them to play for the schools but we are there for them as an alternative program." As the years progressed he sought volunteers so he could administer the programs.

Learning the game is not the sole responsibility according to Odums. "You have to discipline them and tell them what is right and wrong," he said. "You try to lead them in the right direction. The recreation center gives them something to do and keep them occupied and off the street." A room is provided with tutors and a chance to complete homework assignments.

Odums has observed a change in young people's attitudes about athletics. "It's different because the majority of them have video games and play with their friends," he said. "We have some that are dedicated enough to want to become good players but we don't have as many. A lot of the guys now don't take it as serious. They don't want to work as hard. When they get out there and it doesn't go their way, they want to quit instead of fighting through it. Guys are not as committed.

"They don't want to pay the price to be good. I see a lot of guys with talent but they come into the gym today and you might not see them for another three or four days. When I grew up the guys that had talent and wanted to be good were there today, tomorrow and the next day. You had to send them out of the gym. They are not as committed as when I was growing up."

In spite of the transformation, his commitment to caring has not wavered. "It's been real rewarding. I've met a lot of kids and trained them."

Reflecting on his Alabama career, Odums visualizes himself as a brick and mortar figure affecting not only the basketball program's foundation but the entire athletic department. "When I first went there football was financing all the sports but before I left basketball was self-sufficient," he said. "When they (opposing basketball teams) came to Tuscaloosa, they had something to reckon with. The respect of the program from the time I got there to the time I left was a major improvement. We went to a higher ground."

Odums personified the speed and athleticism which became the future brand of successful Alabama basketball teams. Although he regularly fleeced opponents, steals were not an official statistic thus his defensive presence is unfairly absent from the record books.

His efforts contributed to the school's prominent rise from a homecoming-like cupcake to a dominant entity annually challenging for league supremacy. "It was real prestigious and rewarding to receive a four-year scholarship and play for The University of Alabama," said Odums. "To play in the SEC is special. It couldn't have been better for me and my family." The Alabama athletic family became better with the addition of Ray Odums. ■



# 'BAMA Scorecard

## Notebooking Crimson Tide Sports

### Moore Is Finalist

Alabama Director of Athletics Mal Moore is among five finalists for the Athletic Director of the Year Award in the 2010 Sports Business Awards presented by *Street & Smith's SportsBusiness Journal* and *SportsBusiness Daily*.

As a finalist, Moore joins the University of North Carolina's Dick Baddour, Gene Bleymaier of Boise State University, Dan Guerrero of UCLA and Gene Smith of Ohio State University. The Sports Business Awards recognize excellence and outstanding achievement in the business of sports for the period from January 1, 2009, through February 28, 2010. Athletics directors from colleges and universities in the United States were eligible.

Winners will be announced at an awards gala on May 20, at the New York Marriott Marquis.

### Coach of the Year

Alabama Football Coach Nick has been a national coach of the year. For some reason, even though Saban's Crimson Tide did better than any other team in the nation last season—going 14-0 and winning the national championship and producing the Heisman Trophy and Butkus Award winners—the Bama coach was by-passed by several organizations that present awards.

Following the retirement of Bobby Bowden from FSU at the end of last season, the Over The Mountain Touchdown Club of suburban Birmingham decided to honor Bowden, a Birmingham native, with a national coach of the year award named for Bowden.

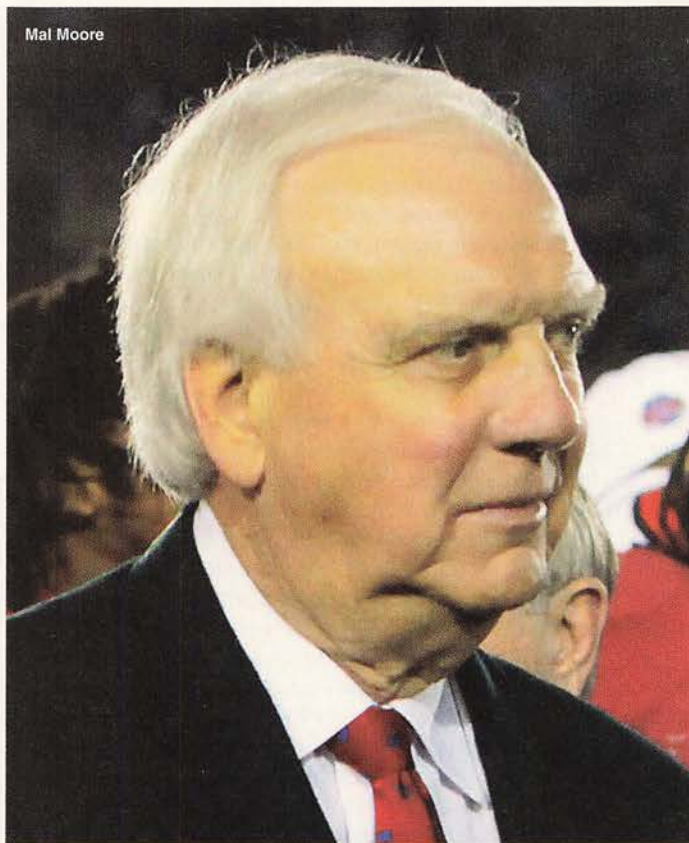
The inaugural winner was Saban, who said in accepting the award that "is a team award. But especially with Coach Bowden's name on it."

### Basketball Honors

Alabama had a mediocre men's basketball season and the result was the Crimson Tide having not too many representatives on the all-star teams selected by Southeastern Conference coaches.

Alabama did finish the first season under Anthony Grant with a winning record at 17-15, but there was no invitation to post-season play. Bama did have three consecutive wins before being ousted from the SEC Tournament by Kentucky.

The leader of the Tide was senior guard Mikhail Torrance, and SEC coaches selected him to the second team in All-SEC balloting. Tony Mitchell was named to the SEC All-Freshman Team.



Mal Moore

Stuart McNair

### Called Up

Former Alabama men's basketball standout Alonzo Gee was signed to consecutive 10-day NBA contracts by the Washington Wizards in March. He was signed to one contract and performed so well he was given a second stint with the Wizards. In his first five games in the NBA, Gee watched his scoring increase in each game, going from two points against Atlanta, to six against Detroit, to seven against Orlando, to 10 in Utah, to 13 in Denver. He also had 10 rebounds against Denver.

Gee had spent the season with the NBA Developmental League's Austin Toros and was voted a D-League All-Star earlier in the season. The 6-6, 220-pound forward appeared in and started 35 games for the Toros and averaged 21.0 points and 6.6 rebounds per game.

A four-year contributor for the Crimson Tide who received his



diploma in December 2008, Gee averaged 15.0 points and 7.2 rebounds during his senior season en route to second team all-SEC honors in 2009.

Gee becomes the 25th Alabama product to appear on an NBA regular-season roster and the third to play for the Washington franchise, joining Buck Johnson (1992-93) and Ennis Whatley (1985-87).

Gee became the fourth former Alabama player in the NBA this year, joining 2010 NBA All-Star Gerald Wallace (Charlotte), 2009 NBA All-Star Mo Williams (Cleveland), and 2001 NBA All-Star Antonio McDyess (San Antonio).

## Into The Hall

Former Alabama All-America first baseman David Magadan had a record-setting season in 1983, leading the Crimson Tide to a Southeastern Conference Championship and the school's first College World Series appearance in more than three decades.

Magadan was recognized for his accomplishments as he was elected to the College Baseball Hall of Fame. The Tampa, Fla., native and current hitting coach for the Boston Red Sox was the top vote-getter among the 10-member induction class, the College Baseball Foundation and Hall of Fame announced.

"Dave Magadan was an overwhelming choice for this year's class," said Mike Gustafson, Hall of Fame chairman and executive director of the College Baseball Foundation. "He put up amazing numbers during his college career and will be a wonderful addition to the Hall of Fame."

He is the second Alabama player inducted in the College Baseball Hall of Fame, joining former Tide All-America and Coach Joe Sewell, who was a member of the inaugural class in 2007 (and who is also in the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown).

Magadan had a stellar three-year career with the Crimson Tide, capped by a phenomenal junior season that saw him set the SEC single-season record with a .525 batting average, which led the nation. The Alabama junior shattered school and SEC records that still stand in becoming the 1983 Golden Spikes Award winner, presented annually by USA Baseball.

Magadan, who concluded the 1983 season with six school career records (at-bats, runs, hits, RBI, doubles, total bases and batting average), was a major contributor in Alabama's national runner up spot to Texas at the College World Series. In addition, he paced the Crimson Tide to the NCAA South Region and Southeastern Conference titles en route to a 46-11 record, one of the most successful campaigns in school history. He was named "College Player of the Year." In 1983 his slugging percentage was .829.

He was All-SEC all three years of his career.

He hit safely in his initial 27 games as a freshman in 1981 and batted an incredible 10-for-11 (.909) at the 1983 SEC Tournament in Starkville, Miss., which included a five-hit game (including two doubles and two home runs) against Florida in second-round action en route to being named the Most Valuable Player. He also set the CWS record by hitting safely in his first eight trips to the plate and batted .550 (11-for-20) at Omaha in five games.

He played 15 years in the Major Leagues before retiring from the game after the 2000 season. In those 15 seasons, he batted .289 (1,165-for-4,031) with 41 home runs and 483 RBI in 1,491 career big-league games. In 1990, he finished third in the NL batting race with a career-best .328 (148-for-451) average.

## Preseason All-America

ESPN.com wasn't exactly going out on a limb. Alabama senior Charlotte Morgan of Moreno Valley, California, was named to the ESPN.com NCAA Early Season All-America Softball Team. Morgan was named to the first-team and joins 23 other players on the two squads.

Morgan enters her senior season as one of the most decorated players in Alabama history. Earlier this season the utility player broke the Alabama career RBI record when she tallied her 192nd RBI against South Alabama on February 16.

The senior became the first Alabama softball player to be named the Southeastern Conference Player of the Year. Morgan has earned NFCA First-Team All-American accolades the last two seasons and is on the USA Softball Player of the Year Watch List. She has also earned ESPN the Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-America honors the last two seasons and is a candidate for the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award.

In 2009, Morgan led the Crimson Tide in seven offensive categories, including batting average (.406), home runs (11) and RBI (59). She also paced the team with a .673 slugging percentage and a .505 on base percentage. She led the country with eight sacrifice flies.

In the circle she also was dominant. Morgan was 18-6 with a 1.80 ERA and 124 strikeouts to just 24 walks. She tossed her first career no-hitter at Georgia Tech on April 22, 2009.

## On The Fast Track

Alabama track star Kirani James was named the SEC Men's Freshman Runner of the Year, as voted on by the league head coaches. The Gouyave, Grenada, native is the second Alabama athlete to garner the award Distance runner Emmanuel Bor was selected in 2007.

At the SEC Indoor Championships, Feb. 26-28, James earned All-SEC by finishing second in the 400-meter dash with a NCAA automatic qualifying, personal-best time of 45.24. His time shattered his indoor Junior World Record as well as his Alabama school record. James and eventual SEC champion Torrin Lawrence of Georgia broke the SEC meet record.

James led the Alabama 4x400m relay to its highest finish at the SEC Championships since 1999, third. He contributed 14 points to Alabama's team total of 47.

James holds the fifth-fastest 400 time in collegiate indoor history. James holds the third-fastest indoor 400 time in the world this year and the fastest time on an oversized track.

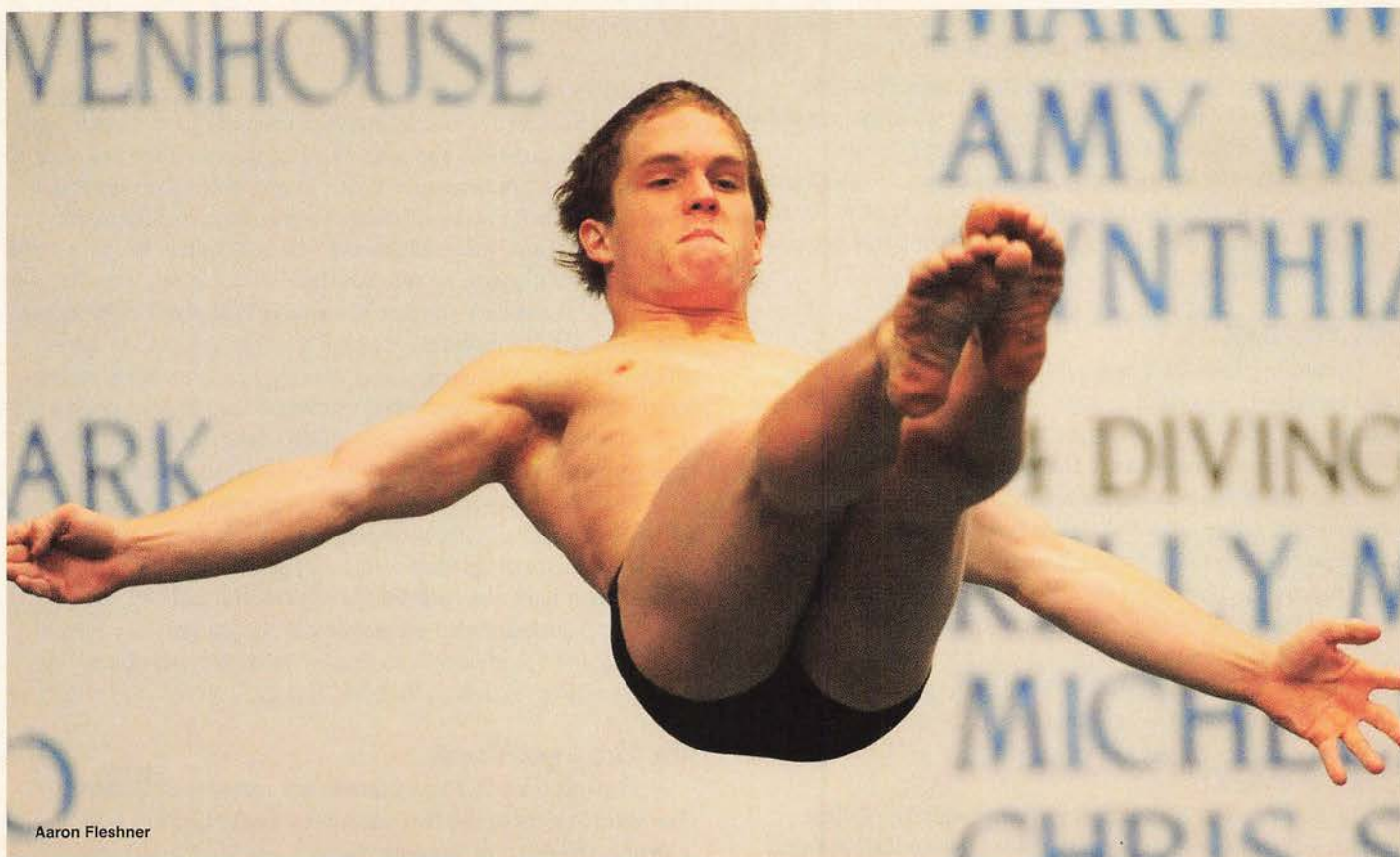
In addition, James holds the second-fastest 200-meter time (20.94) and was a member of the seventh-fastest 4x400m relay squad (3:09.27) in school history.

## Big Jump

Freshman track & field star Krystal Schade was named the SEC Women's Freshman Field Athlete of the Year, as voted on by the league head coaches. The Sunrise, Florida, native is the first Alabama track & field performer to garner an SEC Athlete of the Year award of any kind.

"It's a great honor for Krystal to not only be awarded SEC Freshman Field Athlete of the Year, but to be the very first one Alabama has ever had," jumps coach Scott Roberts said. "She's obviously tremendously talented. She's worked real hard and her future is incredibly bright. I really could see her using this as a springboard





Aaron Fleshner

Harry How/Getty

to even greater things, All-American performances and maybe even a national title down the road somewhere. We'll see what happens."

At the SEC Championships, the freshman earned All-SEC honors by finishing second in the high jump with a NCAA provisional qualifying leap of 5-10 1/2.

"This is really exciting to see that all this hard work is paying off," Schade said. "After SECs, now I know more of my competition and more of what to face at NAAs. My coaches have helped me out tremendously this year with more advanced techniques and training. I also have a great trainer that keeps me healthy throughout the season and I am thankful for all they do."

Schade boasts a season-best high jump clearance of 5-11 1/2, which is a provisional qualifier. The mark, jumped at the season-opening Kentucky Invitational, ranks fifth in school history.

### And Smart, Too

The University of Alabama men's cross country program has been named to the 2009 All-Academic Team as announced by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. The designation rewards both academics and athletics achievement. The Crimson Tide finds itself among the All-Academic Team honorees with a cumulative team grade point average of 3.08.

"We are very pleased to be recognized by the coaches association for our work academically last semester," Cross Country Coach Joe Walker said. "This past fall was one of the best in our school history and knowing that the group achieved not only athletic, but academic success as well, led us to accomplishing all of our primary goals as a group."

On the course, Alabama has put together the best two years in school history over the past two seasons. The Tide has claimed back-to-back SEC Championships, becoming the first school other than Arkansas to do so since Tennessee in 1989-90. At the regional level, Alabama has won the NCAA South Region title five consecutive years and seven of the past 10 years. Furthermore, the Tide earned its highest team finish at the NCAA Championships last season when it placed third. In 2008, Alabama finished 10th at the national meet.

### All-America Dive

Alabama sophomore Carrie Dragland saved her best for last at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships, taking second place in the platform diving event, less than three points out of first place, on the last day of the championships.

"Carrie had a great night and really finished things off well," Alabama Coach Eric McIlquham said. "I really thought she was going to pull it off there at the end. But it was a huge night for her, and she and (Diving) Coach Pat Greenwell have done a great job all season."

Dragland scored 323.05 points in the finals of the platform, finishing 2.45 points behind IUPUI's Chen Ni. She finished nearly 20 points ahead of Florida's Kara Salamone who took third. Trailing Ni by more than 10 points going into the last round, Dragland managed to close the gap considerably, scoring 67.20 on her last dive, a cannonball. No, actually, it was a back two and a half somersault with a one and a half twist piked.

The Woodinville, Washington, native, who was in fourth place after the preliminary round of competition, earned first team All-America with her second place finish and added 17 points to the



Tide's team total. It marked Alabama's highest finish in the diving events since Lane Bassham won the three-meter board in 2004. Dragland had been SEC Freshman of the Year in 2009.

As a team, Alabama finished 32nd with 19 points. Senior Agustina de Giovanni earned honorable mention All-America in the 100 breaststroke.

## SEC Winner

Alabama senior Aaron Fleshner shattered his own school record on the way to winning the three-meter diving title at the SEC Swimming and Diving Championships in Athens, Georgia.

It is Fleshner's third SEC title in as many years. He won the three-meter as a sophomore in 2008 and the one-meter last year. The Spring, Texas, native scored 449.15 points to beat second-place finisher Kelly Marx of Auburn by five points and to break the Crimson Tide record by nearly 20 points. Junior Adam Booher also competed in the championship finals of the three-meter, taking fourth place with 380.80 points.

## Spring Soccer

The Alabama soccer team of Coach Todd Bramble competes for real in the fall, but it also has a spring season that is important to the training of the team. Bama plays up to nine games on five dates, including three at the Alabama soccer stadium.

That schedule started in late February. The Crimson Tide will play its final two dates at the Alabama Soccer Complex. On April 10 Alabama will host Georgia State at 11 a.m. and then play SEC foe Mississippi State at 4 p.m. The Crimson Tide will close out the spring season against Jacksonville State on April 17 at 5 p.m.

## McWhorter Nominees

Tennis player Saketh Myneni and gymnast Kassi Price have been nominated by The University of Alabama for the H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete Post-Graduate Scholarship. The McWhorter Scholarship has been presented by the Southeastern Conference since 1986 to the league's top male and female scholar-athletes.

The SEC was to name the 2010 recipients on April 6 in conjunction with National Student-Athlete Day.

Myneni, a senior from Andhra Pradesh, India, has earned a 3.79 grade point average, majoring in Finance and Economics. He is a three-time member of the SEC Academic Honor Roll (2010 Spring Honor Roll announced later in spring) and has made the Dean's List four semesters and has earned President's List honors.

He was named to the ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District IV At-Large Team and has been a three-time Intercollegiate Tennis Association Scholar-Athlete. He is a Commerce and Business Administration Scholar-Athlete at UA as well as a Crimson Achievement Scholar.

Athletically, Myneni was a first-team All-SEC selection and qualified for the NCAA single championship in 2009. He has been ranked as high as 22nd in the nation in singles and 14th in doubles. He has been named SEC Player of the Week in 2009 and 2010. In 2009, he earned the Blue-Gray National Collegiate Tennis Classic Sportsmanship Award.

He is also active in the community, volunteering with the Walk to Defeat ALS every year since 2006, helped children at the local YMCA,

taught tennis to children, including participating in the U.S. Tennis Association "Quick Start" program to teach tennis to at-risk youth

Price, a senior from Plantation, Fla., has earned a 4.00 grade point average, majoring in Marketing and Advertising. She is a three-time member of the SEC Academic Honor Roll (2010 Winter Honor Roll announced later in spring) and has made the President's and Dean's List every semester at Alabama.

Price was named to the ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-America Women's At-Large first-team in 2009 and third-team in 2008. She is a three-time National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches/Women's Scholastic All-American. She is a member of 13 different honor societies, including the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

A first-team All-America on the uneven bars in 2008 and second-team in 2007, Price has been ranked as high as No. 1 in the nation in the all-around. She helped lead the Crimson Tide to the SEC title and NCAA runner-up finish in 2009. She was an NCAA regional champion on the uneven bars and balance beam in 2008. Price has won 34 individual titles in her career.

She is Vice-President of the UA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee after serving as its secretary last year. She has participated in the RISE Program for Special Needs Children every year since 2006 as well as Project Angel Tree. She has volunteered at the Tuscaloosa Soup Kitchen, Glen Haven Retirement Home and "Night on the Green" event for breast cancer research.

She has spoken at local elementary schools, visited with middle school-aged girls to talk about the importance of education and time management and volunteered with the Easter Seals Walk and the SEC "Together We Can" food drive.

## SEC Great

Crimson Tide legend Andree Pickens Houston, a two-time NCAA champion and captain of Alabama's 2002 NCAA Championship gymnastics team, was recognized as a Southeastern Conference Great this year.

"I'm very proud to be considered among the all-time greats at Alabama that have been given this prestigious honor," Houston said. "I am thankful that the coaches and administrators thought enough of me to put me forward for such a wonderful honor."

The 14-time All-America was honored during the SEC Women's Basketball Tournament.

"Andree has always been, and continues to be a tremendous ambassador for The University of Alabama and she is certainly very deserving of this latest honor," Bama Gymnastics Coach Sarah Patterson said.

The 2002 SEC Athlete of the Year, Houston earned the NCAA Top VIII Award, The Honda Award for Gymnastics and was an NCAA Woman of the Year honoree for the State of Alabama.

Houston also competed on the UA track and field team as a fifth-year senior, setting the school indoor and outdoor record in the pole vault. She competed at two Olympic Trials during her athletic career, the USA Gymnastics Trials in 1996 and the USA Track and Field Trials in 2008.

After coaching gymnastics and competing at a national level in the pole vault, Houston returned to Alabama in 2008 as a coordinator in the Tide's compliance office.



# 2010 Alabama Spring Sports Schedule

## Baseball

Date	Opp.	Time*
Feb. 20	South Alabama	2:05
Feb. 21	@ South Alabama	1:30
Feb. 26	Illinois-Chicago	6:35
Feb. 27	Illinois-Chicago (2)	1:05
March 3	Georgia	6:35
	@ Hoover	
March 5	@ Charleston	6:00
March 6	Charleston	Noon
March 7	Charleston	Noon
March 10	Michigan State	6:35
March 12	Stony Brook	6:35
March 13	Stony Brook (2)	1:05
March 14	Stony Brook	2:05
March 16	Minnesota	6:35
March 17	Minnesota	6:35
March 19	Vanderbilt	6:35
March 20	Vanderbilt	4:05
March 21	Vanderbilt	2:05
March 24	Auburn	7:00
	@ Montgomery	
March 26	@ Arkansas	6:30
March 27	@ Arkansas	2:00
March 28	@ Arkansas	1:00
March 30	Jacksonville State	6:35
March 31	UAB @ Hoover	6:30
April 2	Auburn	6:35
April 3	Auburn	4:05
April 4	Auburn	2:05
April 6	UAB	6:35
April 9	@ Kentucky	5:30
April 10	@ Kentucky	5:30
April 11	@ Kentucky	Noon
April 13	Samford	6:35
April 14	@ SE Louisiana	7:00
April 16	@ LSU	7:00
April 17	@ LSU	7:00
April 18	@ LSU	1:00
April 23	Mississippi State	6:35
April 24	Mississippi State	4:05
April 25	Mississippi State	2:05
April 27	Mississippi Valley	6:35
April 28	Mississippi Valley	6:35
April 30	@ South Carolina	6:00
May 1	@ South Carolina	3:00
May 2	@ South Carolina	12:30
May 4	@ Jacksonville State	6:30
May 7	Florida	6:35
May 8	Florida	4:05
May 9	Florida	2:05
May 12	@ Samford	6:00
May 14	Ole Miss	6:35
May 15	Ole Miss	4:05
May 16	Ole Miss	2:05
May 20	@ Tennessee	6:00
May 21	@ Tennessee	6:00
May 22	@ Tennessee	3:00

## Softball

Date	Opp.	Time*
Feb. 13	Missouri (2)	1:00
Feb. 14	Missouri	1:00
Feb. 16	South Alabama	4:00
	Stetson Invit. @ Deland, Fla.	
Feb. 19	Rhode Island	10:00
Feb. 19	Ohio State	12:30
Feb. 20	Ohio State	10:00
Feb. 20	Stetson	3:00
Feb. 21	Championship	11:30
Feb. 23	UAB	6:30
	Leadoff Classic @ Columbus, Ga.	
Feb. 26	Maryland	12:30
Feb. 26	Iowa	3:00
Feb. 27	Michigan	10:00
Feb. 27	Nebraska	12:30
Feb. 28	UCF	11:30
	Bama Easton Classic	
March 5	Michigan	6:00
March 6	DePaul	1:30
March 6	Michigan	4:00
March 7	DePaul	1:30
March 9	Liberty (2)	3:00
March 13	@ Georgia (2)	2:00
March 14	@ Georgia	1:00
March 16	@ Kentucky (2)	2:00
March 18	Florida International	6:00
March 20	South Carolina (2)	1:00
March 21	South Carolina	1:30
March 24	UAB	6:00
March 27	Florida (2)	1:00
March 28	Florida	1:30
April 2	@ Auburn (2)	5:00
April 3	@ Auburn	2:00
April 7	LSU (2)	5:00
April 10	Northwestern	1:00
April 11	Northwestern	1:00
April 13	@ Mississippi Valley	6:00
April 17	Ole Miss (2)	1:00
April 18	Ole Miss	1:30
April 20	Troy	1:30
April 24	@ Arkansas (2)	1:00
April 25	@ Arkansas	1:00
April 28	Georgia Tech	6:00
May 1	Tennessee (2)	1:00
May 2	Tennessee	1:00
May 8	@ Mississippi State (2)	1:00
May 9	@ Mississippi State	1:00

## Men's Tennis

Date	Opp.	Time
Jan. 8-10	UNLV Invitational	
Jan. 15	SEC Indoor @ Atlanta	
Jan. 22	@ Northwestern	6:00
	ITA Kickoff	
Jan. 30	Arizona	2:00
Jan. 31	Auburn/Duke	TBA
Feb. 7	Tulane	1:00
	ITA National Indoor	
Feb. 12	@ Charlottesville, Va.	
Feb. 19	@ Oklahoma	6:00
Feb. 26	Pepperdine	1:00
Feb. 28	Eastern Kentucky	10:00
Feb. 28	Winthrop	3:00
March 5	Georgia	2:00
March 7	Tennessee	1:00
March 12	@ South Carolina	2:00
March 14	@ Florida	1:00
March 21	@ Vanderbilt	1:00
March 26	Southern Miss	4:00
March 28	Kentucky	3:00
April 2	LSU	3:00
April 4	Arkansas	1:00
April 9	@ Mississippi State	3:00
April 11	@ Ole Miss	1:00
April 14	@ UAB	1:00
April 14	@ Samford	6:00
April 17	Auburn	5:00
	SEC Championships	
April 22	@ Lexington, Ky.	
	NCAA Regionals	
May 14	TBA	
	NCAA Championships	
May 20	@ Athens, Ga.	

## Women's Tennis

Date	Opp.	Time*
Jan. 16-18	UCF Invitational	
	@ Orlando	
Jan. 23	UAB	9:00
Jan. 23	Southern Miss	3:00
	ITA Kickoff	
Jan. 29	Kentucky @ Atlanta	
Feb. 6	@ Oklahoma	Noon
Feb. 13	Georgia State	Noon
Feb. 20	@ Oregon	11:00
Feb. 27	TCU	Noon
Feb. 28	Eastern Kentucky	1:00
March 5	@ Georgia	3:00
March 7	@ Tennessee	Noon
March 12	South Carolina	3:00
March 14	Florida	1:00
March 21	Tulane	1:00
March 26	Vanderbilt	3:00
March 28	@ Kentucky	Noon
April 2	@ LSU	3:00
April 4	@ Arkansas	Noon
April 9	Mississippi State	3:00
April 11	Ole Miss	1:00
April 17	@ Auburn	6:00
	SEC Championships	
April 22	@ Athens, Ga.	
	NCAA Regionals	
May 14	TBA	
	NCAA Championships	
May 20	@ Athens, Ga.	

## Men's Golf

Date	Event
Feb. 21-23	Puerto Rico Classic
Feb. 28-March 2	John Hayt @ Sawgrass
March 19-21	Schenkel Invitational
	@ Statesboro, Ga.
March 26-28	Linger Longer
	@ Greensboro, Ga.
April 2-4	@ Augusta State
	Invitational
	SEC Championships
April 16-18	At St. Simons Island, Ga.
	NCAA Regionals
May 13-14	TBA
	NCAA Championships
May 25-29	@ Chattanooga

## Women's Golf

Date	Event
Feb. 7-9	Lady Puerto Rico Classic
March 12-14	Tiger/Wave
	@ New Orleans
March 26-28	Liz Murphy
	@ Athens, Ga.
April 9-11	Arizona State Invite
	SEC Championships
April 16-18	NorthRiver Yacht Club,
	Tuscaloosa
	NCAA Regionals
May 5-8	TBA
	NCAA Championships
May 18-21	@ Wilmington, N.C.

## Men's Track

Date	Event
March 25-28	Alabama Relays
April 3	@ Florida Relays
April 10	@ Sea Ray, Knoxville
April 23-24	@ Drake Relays
May 1-2	@ Ole Miss
May 13-16	SEC @ Knoxville
May 27-29	NCAA Regionals TBA
June 9-12	NCAA @ Oregon

## Women's Track

Date	Event
March 25-28	Alabama Relays
March 26-27	@ Stanford Invite
March 31	@ Texas Relays
April 10	@ Ole Miss Invite
April 17	@ Miss St Invite
April 20-24	@ Drake Relays
May 1	@ Revel Invite
May 13-16	SEC @ Knoxville
May 28-29	NCAA Regionals TBA
June 9-12	NCAA @ Oregon

## Rowing

Date	Event
March 15	Kansas State
March 20	@ Clemson
March 27	@ Tennessee
April 3	Oklahoma, Old Dominion
April 17-18	Southern Intercollegiate
	@ Oak Ridge, Tenn.
May 1	@ Central Florida
May 15-16	South/Central Sprints
	@ Oak Ridge, Tenn.





**6'2" junior  
235 pounds  
4.4 forty  
2,500 yards rushing  
44 touchdowns  
4.0 GPA**

**could stay home...  
...but wants to see what  
else is out there**

**we know where  
he's going, do you?**

**next signing day starts today**

**BAMAMAG.COM**

YEARROUND RECRUITING COVERAGE • MESSAGE BOARDS • EXPERT INSIDER ANALYSIS  
TEAM RANKINGS • PLAYER RANKINGS • CONFERENCE RANKINGS  
STAY CONNECTED AND FIND OUT WHO'S NEXT



# National Championship Shirts!

## the shirt shop



**Order Online at**  
**[www.theshirtshop.biz](http://www.theshirtshop.biz)**

**the  
shirt  
shop**

**Call Toll Free**

**1-877-457-4478**

VISIT OUR LANDMARK STORE IN DOWNTOWN TUSCALOOSA

